

ANOMALY 8



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Maurice



Jennie

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Anomaly

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Editor: John A. Keel

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OF THE 1930s: *John A. Keel*

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November-December

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(UFOS in Stone Age cave drawings?)

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(Unusual Malaysian photos)

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What Happened to the Five Children?

By Kaj Spencer

25th Anniversary of a Sad Christmas

It was a cold and windy Christmas Eve in Fayetteville, with a light drizzle which formed a fragile shield of ice on all that it struck. The year was 1945, and about two miles north of town on Route 21, the Sodder children were too excited to go to bed.

Mr. and Mrs. George Sodder had retired for the night, but the children had wanted to stay up late because it was Christmas Eve, and seeing no harm in that, Mrs. Sodder had allowed them to do so.

There was no Christmas tree, and no decorations save for three electric candles in the window facing the road, but even so the children were in high spirits laughing and playing games.

At 12:30 a.m. Mrs. Sodder was awakened by the ring of the telephone. She went to answer it, but it seemed to be of no importance. Two or three people at the other end of the line were laughing or making some sort of joke, and they wanted to know if so-and-so were there. Mrs. Sodder told them he wasn't and hung up the phone. Then she noticed that the lights were still on and the doors were unlocked. She assumed the children had gone upstairs to bed, so she turned out the lights, locked the doors, pulled the shades, and returned to her bed.

About an hour later, not having dozed off yet, Mrs. Sodder smelled smoke. She got out of bed and went down the hall toward the telephone. She saw the fire on the outside on the roof just over the corner where the phone was kept, and the smoke was too thick for her to get near it. She went back and woke her husband, then told her oldest daughter, who slept downstairs, to take the baby out of the house.

The baby had been sleeping in Mrs. Sodder's room.

She then ran to the foot of the stairs and called to the children. There was no response.

During all this frenzied activity, Mrs. Sodder recalled that efforts were made by her husband to put the fire out and that in spite of the fire, all the electric lights in the house were on. She also remembered that the coal heating fires had been out when she closed up the house at 12:30.

Mrs. Sodder ran outside and called to the children, and finally her oldest son and the 16 year old

boy came down. They had gone to bed before the others and didn't recall seeing them upstairs. With one son away in the service, that left five children unaccounted for: Betty, age 5; Jenny, age 8; Louis, age 9; Martha Lu, age 12; and Maurice, age 14. The upstairs was arranged into two large rooms — one for the boys and one for the girls.

A man passing by on the road saw the fire and stopped at the nearest house to call it in. Unfortunately, the telephone didn't work, so he went on in to Fayette-

ville to report the blaze. Because of the war, the Fayetteville Volunteer Fire Department only had two or three men that night, and the fire-chief, Mr. Morris, couldn't drive the truck, so they didn't get out to the house until about 7 a.m.

The house had burned to the ground by 2:30 a.m.

During the fire, a crowd had gathered, as usually happens at such events, and witnesses told Mrs. Sodder that a man had dragged a block and tackle used for removing motors from cars away from the house, loaded it onto



Martha Lu

For twenty-five years, with intervals out for refurbishing and shaping-up, a highway sign outside of Fayetteville has pleaded with the passer to help the George Sodder family find their five children. And for twenty-four years, until he died, George Sodder combed the earth to find those children, and now his widow, facing the 25th Christmas that has passed since the fire which made the 1945 Fayette county midnight all too clear with flames of their burning home, is "about ready to give up." Fayetteville is divided on what happened. They died in the fire, some say; they were spirited away, others believe. The widow Sodder simply weeps, like the woman in the Bible, for what is not.

Sad Christmas

a waiting taxi, and drove off.

The next day the fire department, accompanied by ambulances from two different funeral homes, searched the charred remains for bodies. This went on until about 10 or 11 o'clock in the morning of Christmas Day. No trace was found, with one exception. Mr. Morris found what looked like part of a "lung." He buried it in the basement.

After that, Mr. Sodder traveled all over the United States looking for his children. He followed every lead he could get. A Mrs. Ida Crutchfield called them from Charleston and said that she had seen four of the children at her hotel accompanied by two men and two women. She had recognized the children from newspaper photos.

About a year later, Mrs. Crutchfield reported seeing one of the children, Louis, again. This time he was accompanied by one man.

Two years ago Mrs. Sodder received a picture of a young man in an envelope with no accompanying letter. On the back of the photo was

written "LOUIS SODDER," "I love brother Frankie"; "ilil Boys"; and "A90132 or 35" were also written on the back of the photograph. The young man in the photo appeared to be about 24-28 years old, wearing white pants and shirt, and sitting in front of a draped window. She had it enlarged and has a framed copy of the photo propped up in front of her fireplace.

"My husband and I took this picture to Charleston and showed it to Robertson." (The former Attorney General Donald C. Robertson.) "He wouldn't help us. Told us to forget the whole thing; that our children had been burned in the fire. That's the way it has always been. We have never had any cooperation from the law."

Mr. and Mrs. Sodder hired a private detective to go to where the letter had been sent from and search. They paid him \$400 in advance and never heard from him again.

Mrs. Sodder refused to allow me to publish the picture or give me the name of the town the letter had been sent from for fear it

might bring harm to her son.

The little old lady wearing a long, full black dress said she hasn't been out of the house since her husband died in 1969. "We did offer a \$10,000 reward for the recovery of our children, but now it is no use. We tried; we failed; that's it!"

After the interview, during the long drive home I kept thinking about this sad and mysterious tragedy. So many things seemed wrong. The investigations seemed so inconclusive. At home I called Douglas Bryant of the Keyser-Bryant Funeral Home in Beckley. They operate a crematorium. "It takes us about 3 1/2 hours at 2500 degrees to completely cremate a body," Mr. Bryant said. "There's nothing left but about four pounds of ashes, then."

"I've never seen a house fire where there wasn't something left of the bodies," he told me.

Could the wind-whipped fire of the Sodder house have been hot enough to entirely consume the bodies of those five children? Or were they kidnapped as Mrs. Sodder believes?

THE WEST VIRGINIA HILLBILLY

A WEEKLY PUBLICATION

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HARPER'S WEEKLY

JULY 3, 1897.



SEVERAL people who got very widespread reputations in odd ways have lately died. One was Captain Boycott, late of County Mayo, in Ireland, who lent his name quite involuntarily to the English language. He was a squire in a small way and a land-agent, who had used harsh measures to collect agricultural rents in bad seasons, and happened to be the first person on whom was tried the recommendation of Mr. Parnell, who urged the Irish peasants to abstain from violence against landlords and land-agents, and instead to let them severely alone. Captain Boycott was let alone until he nearly starved, and "boycott" promptly took its place in the dictionary. He died, in London apparently, about June 21.

On the same day, in Germantown, Pennsylvania, died Christian K. Ross, known throughout this country as the father of Charley Ross, who was stolen from home on July 1, 1874, and was never heard of afterwards. It has happened to Philadelphia to furnish the two most famous mysteries of this generation. The fate of Charley Ross was one, and the other is the Keeley motor. After endless investigation at large cost, nothing definite has been ascertained about either. Mr. Ross lived to be seventy-four years old. For years he devoted the greater part of his time to the search for his son.

Father Kneipp, the inventor of the Kneipp water-cure, died at Woerishoven, Bavaria, on June 17. In his youth he was sickly, and the course of treatment to which he gave his name was first tested on himself. Its first principles seem to have been abstemiousness and abundant bathing, which are good things, and adapted to benefit a great many people. The system spread very widely. People of the first rank and fashion, royalties, and millionaires, tried it and profited by it in Europe, and even in New York within a year the newspapers have told of the Kneipp-curists who walk barefoot in the grass in the early morning in Central Park. Whatever merit there may be in the system, there is little doubt that Father Kneipp himself had excellent curative properties. He was well tested—once he treated the Pope—and maintained an excellent reputation as a priest, a man, and a physician.

Some men seem to have the *vis medicatrix* as a gift of nature. One such person, and a very remarkable one, was Francis Schlatter, whose bones were found the other day in the foot-hills of the Sierra Madre on the Puetas Verdas River, in Chihuahua, Mexico. It is only about a year since he disappeared from Denver, where throngs of people crowded to see him, and brought all sorts of sick people to him to be healed of their diseases. Schlatter may have been of unsound mind, but at least he was a pure-minded fanatic. There was nothing vulgar about him, nor any taint of self-seeking or charlatanism in his proceedings. So far as we know him, he was an unearthly creature, who attained about as near to the sublime and kept as distinctly clear of the ridiculous as any saint of his period. There was constant expectation that he would turn out to be either a fraud or an absurdity, but he didn't, and there was great dramatic propriety even in his end.

Search Six Years for Man

By David Manley
A Member of The Star's Staff

Six years ago today Melvin Aaron Nelson put on his brown car coat, kissed his wife goodbye and with his gray, narrow-brimmed hat in hand walked to the northeast corner of Forty-first street and Agnes avenue to await his ride to work. That was the last time his family saw him.

December 3 also was Nelson's birthday. He was 64 years old. Today his wife of 20 years, Mrs. Inez Nelson of 4106 Agnes, will call the missing persons unit of the police department to see if they have received any information about her husband. She will receive the same answer today as she has since December 3, 1964—no.

Accounts of the disappearance vary. His wife had been told that following his day's work as a machinist with a machine shop once in the 1600 block of Oakland avenue he went to a nearby pool hall.

Another story was that he requested to be let out of the motor car halfway home because he wanted to return to the downtown area to finish some shopping.

His wife, who lives with two granddaughters, 7 and 19 years old, in a green, one-story house, recalls that day clearly.

"It was cold," she said, "and it was just a blizzard outside. I wanted Melvin to wear an overcoat, but he liked his car coat because it didn't confine him too much."

She said that he went about the house as usual preparing for work. He complained about the weather and expressed concern that the driver of his ride of more than three years didn't have snow tires on his car.

"When he left he was happy and he was looking forward to having his birthday cake with the family," she said.

When he didn't return at his normal time, about 4:30 o'clock, Mrs. Nelson assumed that the weather had delayed him. By 9 o'clock, however, she was certain that something was wrong and called his ride's family.

KANSAS CITY STAR—DEC. 3, 1970

They told her that he hadn't arrived either and for her not to worry. At 1 o'clock the next morning, December 4, he finally returned the call.

He told her that he let Nelson out of the car at Thirty-first street at his request. He said that because of all the snow on the ground the busses were running behind schedule and for that reason, Nelson was late. But Mrs. Nelson said it was not like her husband not to call when he was detained.

"If he could have done nothing but crawled, he would have called," she said. "I knew then that something had happened to him."

From that point on, Mrs. Nelson has sought information about her husband. Several times a month she calls Sgt. Harry Hogue, of the missing persons unit, hoping that they have information about her husband.

"I know I'm a pest callin' him like that, but he always tells me to keep my chin up and not to give up hope," she said.

Sergeant Hogue is apparently the only one who won't give up. Even Mrs. Nelson now believes that her husband is dead.

"I'm sure he was killed because someone thought that big billfold he carried had a lot of money in it," she said. "I've told him and told him that it looked too flashy."

Mrs. Nelson said that her husband was the victim of a street robbery and abduction in September 1964. She said he was robbed of \$87 and was taken to near Wagoner, Okla., where he was released.

"He called his brother, Jesse, who lives in Wagoner," she said, "and told him what had happened and would he take him home."

She said her husband was so upset and frightened by the incident that he didn't want to talk about it and that she was the one who called police.

Police here contacted the Wagoner County sheriff's office

and was informed that the brother had put Nelson on a train for Kansas City and that his brother had said nothing about the incident.

Though he liked to spend time in the small garden behind the house, she said, he worked all his weekends the last 14 years as a handyman for Norman P. Gordon, a lawyer here.

Mrs. Nelson said Gordon had spent a considerable amount of time and money attempting to find her husband and that the Gordon family kept her from "going completely under."

She said her husband was an honest man that didn't drink. He was active in the St. Stephen Baptist church.

His only hobby, she said, "was his family."

MARCH 7, 1972

Psychiatrist, Wife Missing On Boat Trip

A psychiatrist and his wife from Rockville have been reported missing off the island of Santa Lucia in the Caribbean.

Dr. and Mrs. Gary O. Morris, 4311 Banff Springs Ct., set out Friday in a 15-foot motorboat from the Halcyon Beach Club hotel for a picnic on Pigeon Island, about three miles away. With them was a local captain, Mervin Augustin.

When the three failed to return by Friday night, the hotel manager flew out to look for them, according to the Associated Press. U.S. Coast Guard, British and private aircraft searched the seas off the British protectorate over the weekend.

The group had two quarts of water, a picnic lunch and a box of ice on board. The Halcyon management said the

Morris had checked in on Wednesday for four days.

Morris practices psychiatry at 4501 Connecticut Ave. in Washington.

He and his wife have three children.

OCT. 23, 1971

Coast Guard Ends Search for Va. Man

The U.S. Coast Guard has ended its two-day helicopter search for a Fairfax County man whose abandoned campsite was found Wednesday at the Cape Hatteras, N.C., National Seashore.

A Coast Guard spokesman said search missions will resume only if "something turns up" to warrant them. The campsite of Timothy B. Tyler, 25, 7908 Fort Hunt Rd., was found Wednesday by a park ranger, according to seashore superintendent Bert C. Roberts.

Tyler's campsite and vehicle, sleeping bag and wallet were found on the barrier sand dunes one mile north of Buxton, N.C., Roberts said.

Chicago Tribune, Wednesday, August 25, 1971

N. Y. Children's Zoo Vandalized

Vandals broke into the children's zoo of West Harrison Memorial Park, N. Y., Monday night and killed or mutilated 17 of the 21 small animals there. A rooster, a guinea pig, a pigeon and a small monkey were the only animals apparently quick enough to escape the vandals' attack.

Suisun Aide Tells Of Strange Flight Across Four States

By WAYNE RATLIFF
Times-Herald Staff Writer

SUISUN CITY — City Administrator Robert J. Bounds struggled Wednesday to express his gratitude to hundreds of persons who searched for him and aided him in returning from a strange flight across four states during a memory lapse that lasted for several days.

He left his job at City Hall last Thursday and was not located until about four days later when he called his wife from Pueblo, Colo. He said Wednesday that he not only remembers little of the trip but has forgotten events from several days preceding it.

He also wondered aloud as to his future but said he hopes to be back at work within a short time.

Bounds was the object of an area-wide search by hundreds of volunteers, city employees and officials and law enforcement officers after he disappeared.

KINDNESS CITED

Bounds said that he was overwhelmed by the accounts he had read of efforts made in his behalf and that he thought that it was wonderful to see so many people — many of whom he doesn't know — were concerned about him.

"I just don't know how to express it," he said. "It's one of the highlights of my life that so many people were so concerned and helpful . . . it's a debt of gratitude that I just can't repay."

Bounds said that several people took up to three days off work to aid in the search and cited other cases of individual help, including that of the Pueblo, Colo., Police Chief who volunteered to advance him money for the flight home and an airlines that gave him tickets without having received any payment before the flight.



ROBERT H. BOUNDS

He also expressed appreciation of the extensive efforts of the Reno, Nev., police department and about 20 Suisun City residents to find him in that city after he was seen there.

Asked when and whether he plans to return to work, Bounds said, "I haven't made any plans as far as dates or anything like that."

Several city council members had told him they just wanted him to rest for now, he said, and a doctor's appointment for a thorough medical examination was being made.

"My feet are one of my problems," he said. "I couldn't get my shoes on if I wanted to."

He said that his feet are blistered on the ball and toes, that the lower part of his ankles and his knees are sore and that his feet were still swollen, apparently from a great deal of walking during his trip.

THOROUGH CHECKUP

Bounds said that he had a thorough medical examination

Oct. 14 but that his doctor was arranging a new checkup in an attempt to find out the reason for his strange trip.

"I want to know; I want to be checked out," he said. "Whatever he (the doctor) wants to do, that's what I want to do."

He reported that he was still tired, and his voice sounded tired, but that tiredness and his feet were the only things bothering him now.

"I had a headache down there and was over it by the time I got back here," he said, adding that he thought the headache could have been due to his trying very hard to remember things.

He said that he didn't feel that his memory lapse was due to the non-narcotic prescription medication he takes for his arthritis pains or due to the pains themselves.

LIVES WITH PAIN

"I'm used to living with pain; it's with me 24 hours a day," he said, adding that the arthritis effects his spine, "I know what pain is and I made up my mind some time ago that I was not going to let it bother me and I was going to enjoy my children and enjoy life."

Bounds said that one of the things that stands out in his mind about the trip is that a highway patrolman who stopped him during the trip, who kept him for what seemed a long time to check him out, and let him go with no comment.

"My feeling is that when he released me that I must have been acting fairly normally," he said. "It appears to me that all the time I was gone if I'd been acting strange somebody would have stopped me or turned me in. Maybe my be-

havior would have been strange to somebody who knew me, but if it were really unusual I think somebody would have turned me in."

NORMAL BEHAVIOR

He said that only a few things he apparently did on the trip — other than the trip itself — seemed out of character.

He purchased a heavy coat and long sleeve shirt, neither of which he normally wears, and he said the overnight bag he had when he regained his memory contained a different brand of deodorant from the one he usually uses.

He also said that he never leaves his car keys in the car under normal circumstances, and the keys were in the ignition when the car was found abandoned in Reno.

"It seems that I wasn't running from anything because I have nothing to run from," he said, "and I didn't seem to be going to any place particular."

RIDES WITH DRIVER

He said that the man he was riding with when he was dropped off in Pueblo had picked him up in Denver and was going to Albuquerque, N.M., but that the man never said that Bounds was going to Albuquerque.

He added that he couldn't express his feelings about having the apparent memory lapse, but added, "I have a strong feeling in my mind that I didn't do anything wrong as such."

Brothers Collide, Die

VENTURINA, Italy (UPI) Brothers Ferdinando and Renato Simonelli, riding different motorcycles in different directions, collided on a road near here yesterday. Both were killed.

YOUR CLIPPINGS of newspaper items are very welcome. We apologise here for being generally unable to acknowledge these items as the pressure of work on our tiny staff and on our postage resources is too great. However, please do not be deterred by this seeming lack of courtesy. We really do appreciate anything you care to send.

CALIFORNIA

Vallejo Times-Herald, Tues., Nov. 9, 1971

MEDICAL ASPECTS OF NON-EVENTS

1. CLASSIFICATION OF HALLUCINATIONS.

The mere mention of the word "hallucination" produces a strong emotional response in most ufologists because they commonly associate hallucinating with insanity...and many ufologists have an inordinate fear of "insanity" after suffering years of ridicule. We have not been using "hallucination" in the colloquial sense, however, but in its strictest medical sense.

An hallucination is an apparent perception for which there is no external cause. A person who repeatedly sees or hears things which have no discernible external cause and are not physically real is suffering from hallucinosis.

TYPES: There are three main types of hallucination; Visual, audio, and sensual. Visual hallucinations are eye-ball impressions of objects which do not exist in reality and can include everything from animals and insects, such as those seen by alcoholics suffering delirium tremens, to ghosts, monsters and some categories of unidentified flying objects.

The UFO perception can be divided into two main classes: subjective sightings of objects and entities which may not physically exist, and objective sightings of objects and beings who leave some sort of evidence indicating they were physically real.

The deeper we investigated these things, the more obvious it became that a large percentage of all reported UFO sightings fall into the subjective category. We conducted fieldtests which verified the fact that only certain people could see the objects at certain times. Too often newspaper reporters and amateur investigators simply accepted the percipient's testimony without conducting appropriate medical and psychological tests. We found that such people often proved to have active or latent psychic abilities. Many experienced the classic symptoms of deep trance which accounted for the time lapses and physical symptoms they suffered. For example, Miss Clem, the girl who was the main witness at the Presque Isle, Erie, Pa. landing in 1966 had a history of psychic experiences which included poltergeistic manifestations.

The second type of hallucination, audio, consists of hearing sounds and voices with no discernible external cause. The two types of audio hallucinations most frequently reported are the sounds of a baby crying and the sound of an unseen car door slamming. The baby crying phenomenon is common not only among UFO witnesses but among thousands of "ghost" and monster

The paranoid delusions of schizophrenics may contain a nugget of truth.

THE UFO EXPERIENCE SOMETIMES PRODUCES AN ORGASM OF THE MIND.

witnesses as well. We found that the door slamming phenomenon is universal but is rarely reported in print because few investigators bother to collect the necessary background information from the witnesses.

The third type of hallucination is a physical perception. The most common example of this would be the sensation of being touched by invisible hands. This occurs in every frame of reference, ranging from religious experiences to demonology and ufology. In more advanced forms the feelings can be sexual, or can be impressions of pain. The most common pain hallucinations center around the solar plexus...a sense that a needle or knife is being plunged into the middle or lower abdomen. Stigmata can result in some cases, with slow-healing wounds appearing on the tips of the fingers (most common), the face and jaw, and the forearms. This phenomenon was so widespread in the Middle Ages that it gave rise to the vampire legends of central Europe.

During one of our first visits to the Wanaque Reservoir in New Jersey in 1966 we interviewed a woman who told us of an unusual "dream". She said she had awakened in the middle of the night and gone into the kitchen where she found a group of "little men" who placed her in a semi-trance, stretched her on the kitchen table and drove a long needle into her stomach. We were intrigued because we already knew about Betty Hill's alleged "pregnancy test" at the hands of "little men" even though John Fuller's account of the Hill case had not yet been published. Among other things, the N.J. woman said she had the distinct impression that this same thing was happening simultaneously in homes throughout the world.

Pains in the abdomen are an integral part of witchcraft and occult lore. The history of these experiences can be traced back hundreds of years.

EUPHORIA: Another major symptom reported so often in religious miracles and UFO contact cases is a mental state in which the pleasure centers of the brain are stimulated. Volition is diminished and the feeling is very sexual. It is usually described as being a kind of extreme orgasm which can last for a long period time...or seem to. Percipients who experience this are usually very receptive to-- even anxious for-- further contacts. This state of "ecstasy", as the religionists call it, seems to be a response in the brain circuits to a beam of electromagnetic energy and may be nothing more than a side-effect of the mechanism which produces hallucination.

2. BROADCASTS TO THE MIND.

Hearing voices of people who aren't there is really not an extraordinary phenomenon. Millions of people have heard these mysterious voices throughout history. In psychic phenomena the ability to hear allegedly supernatural voices has long been known as clairaudience. In psychiatry, people who hear voices which often drive them to commit destructive acts such as arson and murder are generally labeled schizophrenic. Many of the major political assassinations in history were carried out by solitary individuals who claimed a disembodied voice drove them to the act.

Clairaudience became closely associated with UFO manifestations in the mid-1940's. Richard Shaver tried to explain that the voices were actually projected by "rays" from the caves of the Deros. In 1948, one of the first

issues of FATE magazine, then edited by Ray Palmer, carried an article on the subject. Mr. Palmer was obviously aware of the relationship between clairaudience and UFOs even in those days.

Victims of this eerie manifestation usually attempt to place the voices within the context of some personal belief. It is not unusual for such victims to accept the voice as coming from God or the devil. Others come to believe they are hearing "a broadcast from the government" (see page 149). And in thousands of UFO contact cases now on record the witnesses described silent "telepathic" conversations with entities from outer space. The cases we have investigated personally proved to be combinations of visual and audio hallucinations, with the percipient entering a trance-like state at the outset of the experience. While in a trance, the victim's consciousness is cut off from reality and his or her mind constructs a false but seeming genuine reality for the course of the experience, just as conventional schizophrenics withdraw into a reality of their own making.

3. GAMES NON-PEOPLE PLAY.

Traditionally, the contact experience begins with a visual hallucination which establishes the frame of reference. The victims see and converse with an angel (seeing and talking with angels is a widespread phenomenon, even today), a demon, a spaceman, or even-- shades of "Harvey"-- a large animal of some sort. In a number of unpublished cases in our files, the witness first had a seemingly chance encounter with a man in a gray or black suit, or a woman in a long Indian-style dress. These entities quickly establish (prove) that they know everything about their victim's history and can accurately predict his or her future. At first they appear almost daily before the percipient, passing along valid information and advice and creating a solid friendship.

If the UFO frame of reference is being used, the first encounter may be staged on an isolated road. Often the victim goes to the first encounter on sheer impulse. That is, they suddenly get an urge to get into their car and go for a pointless drive. But a skillful interview usually brings a

EVEN LARGE TALKING ANIMALS LIKE "HARVEY" ARE COMMONPLACE.

number of seemingly unrelated facts to the surface. The victim may have had a series of minor experiences and symptoms long before the first contact. One of the most common is the sudden blackout. Weeks or months before contact the witness passes out suddenly for several minutes, and for no apparent medical reason. Such blackouts usually occur while riding in a car, train or plane, but they can happen in the bedroom or bathroom, or at work.

Another early warning sign of impending contact is the "number-calling phenomenon". Here the victim begins to hear a monotone voice calling out meaningless numbers over their radio or television set. In some cases, the numbers are read to them over the telephone in a succession of mysterious phone calls. The victim is always alone when this happens. If another person should enter the room while numbers are being recited on the TV, for example, the voice will suddenly cease.

So the victim is prepared for contact subliminally. Perhaps this process even programs their mind in the same way that a computer is programmed.

THE GAMES: Once contact is established, the victim can be drawn into a series of complicated adventures. They may be called upon to "help" the

NUMBERS CALLED OUT OVER YOUR TV SET MAY BE A TICKET TO THE TWILIGHT ZONE.

space people in various ways, just as the fairies in earlier times often asked for human help. The games can become tremendously involved. One percipient was asked to purchase some items from a store and leave them in an isolated field late at night. Another percipient, a person completely unknown to the first, is then directed to the field to retrieve the merchandise and deliver it to another place. Percipient #1 believes the material was picked up by the space people. Percipient #2 believes the material was dropped by the space people. Howard Menger and other published contactees have described their involvement in this kind of game. When we investigated a number of these "drops" we were impressed by the obvious fact that the unrelated contactees had to have a common bond...that they were experiencing something beyond ordinary schizophrenia. That bond had to be the intelligence or force which was somehow controlling these people.

Some victims are told to set up communications through indirect means such as a "sounding board" (Ouija board), or by taking hypnotics (sleeping pills). They are also directed to go to specific places when they desire contact. These places are usually isolated spots...high hills, graveyards, deserts and beaches. In a number of instances, the percipients were drawn again and again to the site of their original UFO observation. Once there they underwent a new hallucination. (In 1957, Ohio's Olden Moore was supposedly driven to a UFO landing site by the local sheriff. A helicopter was waiting there to whisk him to an airport. He was then flown to Washington and held for three days in a government building. Actually, when we collected all the facts on this case it was apparent that this trip never really took place. Moore remembered the trip vividly but the memory was probably a confabulation to account for the days during which his body, sans consciousness, was engaged in some other activity.)

Persons directed to use a Ouija board often fall prey to uglier manifestations such as the incubus and succubus phenomenon. Many have told us in detail of how invisible entities attacked them sexually after they began using a Ouija board. There are many striking similarities in the details in these widely separated, rarely publicized cases so we can't discount them as being purely psychological.

Someone trapped into and obsessed by a particular frame of reference can undergo all these experiences and every possible variation. They can take imaginary trips to heaven, hell, the caves of the dero, "secret underground UFO bases", and other planets. They can become involved in elaborate games with Men In Black types and can experience total distortions of reality.

4. THE ROAD TO PARANOIA.

In UFO cases paranoids are made, not born. The entities make it very clear that their victim's every move is observed. The mail and phones behave mysteriously and provide further evidence of this continual surveillance. They are given very precise predictions about the future. Not the usual wearisome generalities of the professional seers ("There will be an earthquake somewhere in April"), but exact information such as, "Next Thursday you will receive a phone call at 9:32 a.m. informing you of the death of a distant relative". When the call comes in at exactly 9:32 on the appointed day the victim is further convinced that the entities know everything about the future as well as the past.

Continued on page 145

By Ivan G. Goldman
Washington Post Service

Legend of Fletchertown Road

Washington

DUSK ALONG Fletchertown road, somewhere near the lair of Goatman. The paved, pot-holed path winds through a two-mile stretch of dense woods in northeastern Prince George's county, Md., a secluded land where myths survive.

Beer cans, an occasional discarded mattress or junked car dot the road's edges. But the forest away from the thoroughfare is not traversed by man.

The trees shelter quiet strangeness. No traces of rabbit or squirrel, and birds do not sing.

Something, a squatting hulk, bars the way. Approached warily, it is perceived finally as a thing rectangular, a thing of man. A spent refrigerator, gutted brutally, and on its back. On its side is scrawled a message. "Goatman Was Here."

A clue revealed. Goatman, it is plain, owns a can of black spray paint.

★ ★ ★

IT'S NOVEMBER 4, in the Huntington section of Old Bowie, at the edge of Goatman's forest, in a rural area about two miles northeast of the dead refrigerator. William Gheen and Raymond Hayden, both 20, walk in the morning chill beside the house of Mr. and Mrs. Lacie Daniels.

Gheen lives with the Daniels family. He and the others have been worried about Ginger, a 10-month-old dog missing from her pen since the previous night. Ginger is the special pet of April Edwards, 16, the daughter of Mrs. Daniels by a previous marriage.

Gheen and Hayden simultaneously spy a small dark mass about the size of a football on the wet autumn grass. They investigate, finding a gruesome specter—the head of Ginger.

Ginger, a sprightly mongrel who closely resembled a German shepherd, has been decapitated, cleanly at the neck.

The body is not found.

The word circulates throughout this distant corner of the county. It's a long-settled, but still sparsely populated region—a place apart from the Washington metropolitan area—yet within its geographical boundaries.

"Goatman!" exclaims many a youngster and, if truth be told, some grownups as well. It is said that Goatman always did entertain an appetite for dogs.

And so another oral chapter is transcribed, reaffirming the enticingly horrible legend of Goatman.

No one speaks of the fact that Ginger's head was found about 40 yards from the Penn Central Railroad tracks—tracks traversed by swift Metroliners that could easily strike an unwary dog.

★ ★ ★

AND JUST who is Goatman? "He's about the size of a man, and has a man's face. But he's all covered with fur and walks on his hind legs," says one young man. Does he believe such a creature exists?

"Well," he answers, evading the question. "I think people around here really believe in this Goatman. They see somethin' move, and right away, they're on that telephone, calling for help."

It's difficult to get two people to agree on one description or history of the creature. He is an illusory being. Some stories say his upper body is man, and lower body goat.

Still others say he is just a man, not supernatural, but quite mad, living alone in his forest haunt, and committing periodic atrocities.

★ ★ ★

THE UNIVERSITY of Maryland folklore archives contain several tales of Goatman. The stories were gathered by a student in a folklore class who interviewed high school students in northern Prince George's.

Some say Goatman originally was a scientist who experimented on goats at the nearby National Agricultural Research Center—that he ran away to live in a shack in the forest. This version says he grew hair "all over his body," and that he would emerge from his secluded shack to spring upon passing cars, beating them with an ax.

Goatman

"He's supposed to have killed about four dogs around here lately," says April Edwards, owner of Ginger. "I know up the tracks somewhere a blue tick hound was killed about two months ago."

★ ★ ★

IT'S THE night of November 17, almost two weeks since the discovery of Ginger. Several neighborhood teen-agers are watching television in the living room of Raymond Hayden's house, around the corner from the Daniels' place.

"Eeek!" someone shouts. "There's something out there."

The teen-agers rush to the window. They see, or think they see, a form, outlined against the night sky, sitting on top of a pickup truck.

"Auughhh!"

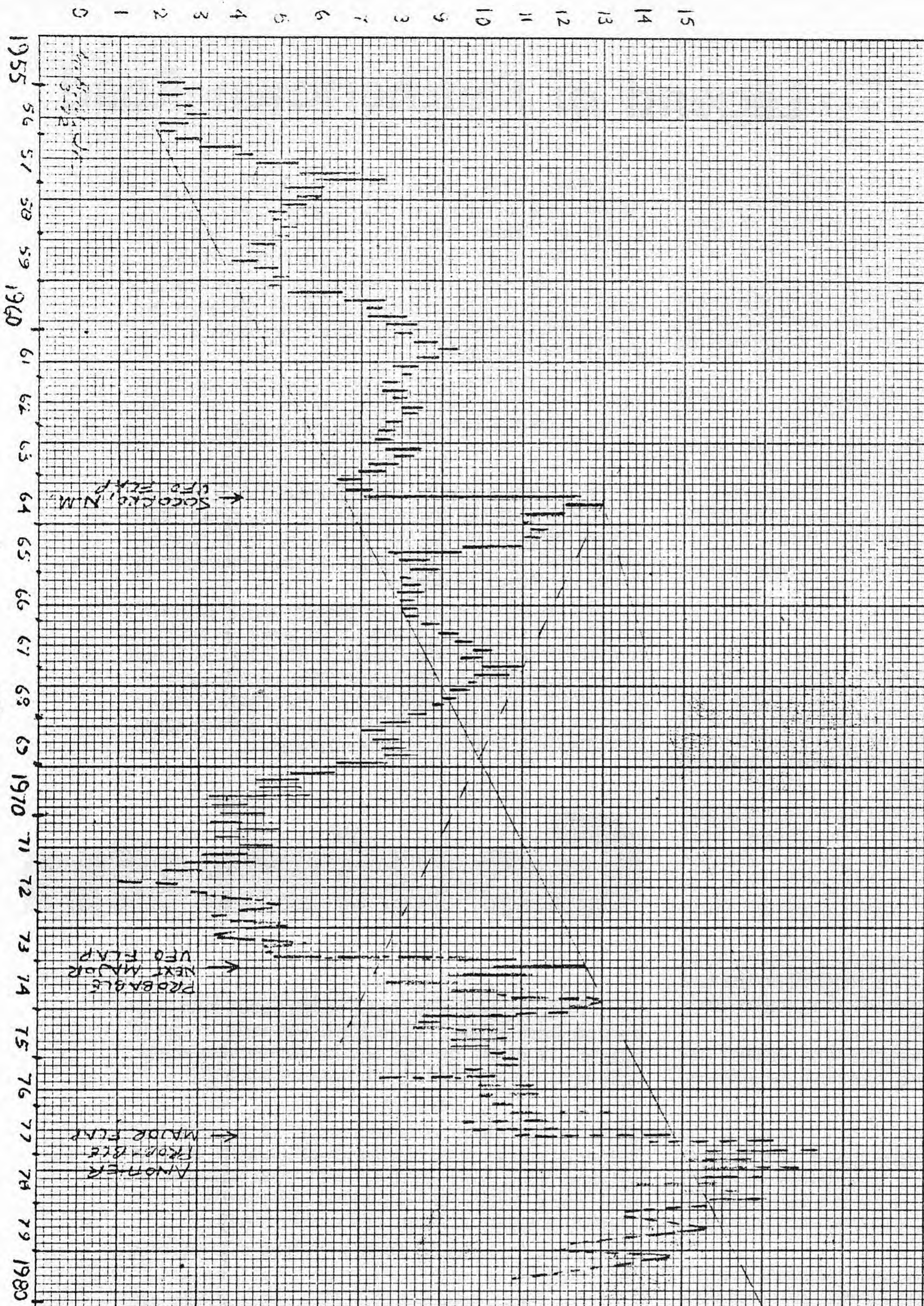
Police are called. They come. They search. They find nothing.

"We saw whatever it was get off the truck, and go back toward the woods," recalls Kathy Edwards, April's sister. "I don't know, it could be a Goatman for all I know," she says with an embarrassed smile.

"There ain't no Goatman," scoffs a young man about 25. "He's gonna get you next," retorts April Edwards.

WHEN WILL UFO'S RETURN TO THE SOUTHWESTERN U.S.?

THE GRAPH BELOW, COMPILED BY M.B. MOREHART JR., SHOWS PAST UFO ACTIVITY IN THE U.S. SOUTHWEST AND AN EXPLANATION AS DETERMINED FROM GRAPH VALUES BASED ON DR. WALLER'S UFO ACTIVITY INDEX



Using the standard methods of statistical analysis, Malcolm B. Morehart Jr., a financial statistician, has projected future UFO flaps in the U.S. Southwest.

SOME PEOPLE BEGIN TO BELIEVE THEY CAN CAUSE FUTURE EVENTS.

In some cases the victim begins to believe that he or she is doing more than receiving insights into the future. They begin to believe they are causing future events merely by thinking about them. This notion produces great fear and mental confusion, and leads to real paranoia and a complete mental breakdown.

Over the years we have investigated and studied innumerable cases in all the various frames of reference. The modus operandi of the "spacemen" and the angels and demons is identical. The UFO lore is clearly based upon classic manifestations which have no connection with beings from outer space. UFO contactees who hear voices in their heads follow the same patterns found in other frames of reference. Many are driven nuts by the phenomenon, or they fall into the patterns of fanaticism and become UFO evangelists.

5. POST-HYPNOTIC SUGGESTION.

When Dr. Simon first hypnotized Barney Hill he left him with a post-hypnotic suggestion. Whenever Dr. Simon uttered the word "trance" Barney was to lapse instantly into a hypnotic trance.

The UFO phenomenon is partly based on a form of post-hypnotic suggestion. Certain words or perceptions are introduced into the percipient's mind and when these words or perceptions reappear again---even years later---the percipient is automatically triggered into a trance or hallucinatory state. The number-calling-phenomenon (part 3) may be one such "trigger".

Another standard example was given in B. Ann Slate's article in the April 1972 SAGA. An engineer named Wheeler had a classic sighting of a grounded UFO on a highway in the mid-1950's. Although there were undoubtedly many more important details to that sighting than Mr. Wheeler later remembered, he did recall vividly the dark lettering he observed on the object...stylised versions of the Greek letters B-X-P. Years later he saw...or thought he saw...these same letters in another UFO sighting. Actually the letters were the clue to the "trigger" used in his case. Although his conscious mind may not have had any knowledge of Greek, the subliminal technique is such that if the words "beta-xi-pi" were projected into his mind, or over his car radio, he would lapse instantly into a trance state.

An even more widely used UFO trigger is a pulsing beeping sound which can be projected on the specific frequency of the percipient's mind. The victim hears the beeping sound, lapses into a trance and enjoys an hallucination. Then he wakes up to another beeping sound. (This happened to Betty and Barney Hill.) In the interval between beeps the victim may travel a great distance, change clothes completely, and carry out acts foreign to his nature. Like a person who has been hypnotized, he or she experiences a time lapse. That is, no time seems to have passed between the beeps but when they check a clock

IT MAY BE GREEK TO YOU...BUT IT CAN BLOW YOUR MIND.

They Get 'High' on Religion

By Merla Zellerbach

"JESUS is rising in California," states a national news magazine. "He's the latest movement, the latest thing to groove on."

A rock opera album titled, "Jesus Christ, Superstar," is playing big on local stations.

And so much talk of the "Jesus Cult" is having its effect, polarizing San Franciscans into both skeptics and believers.

One local devotee took a lie detector test regarding a vision he had, and because I recently wrote about miracles, he sent me a copy of this condensed report:

Polygraph examiner's question — Do you use narcotics?

Subject's answer — No.

Q—On the evening of Jan. 12, 1971, did you see Jesus Christ in your bedroom?

A—Yes.

Q—Are you a habitual drinker?

A—No.

Q—Did the vision have a rough beard and very masculine face?

A—Yes.

Q—Did the vision have his right hand held up in a peace sign?

A—Yes.

Q—Did the vision appear for approximately ten seconds?

A—Yes.

Q—Have you lied to me in any way?

A—No.

★ ★ ★

At the bottom of the report, the sender scribbled, "I am sure you won't believe this, only because you won't want to. That does not change the fact that it happened."

But I DO believe him! I am as certain as he is that it happened.

Yet as the polygraph operator summarizes: "This test was not meant to prove that Gregory M. had actually seen Jesus Christ, but to show that, in his own mind, he had received a vision."

"There was no deception in response to the questions asked. There is no doubt in the subject's mind that he has and did see Jesus Christ that night."

★ ★ ★

they find they can not account for several minutes or, in some cases, several days.

6. THE DEATH DREAM.

Some UFO experiences appear to be variations of the classic "death dream" so well known to medicine, religion and parapsychology. Arthur Ford's book, They Came Back, is only one of several tomes documenting such dreams.

In a death dream the patient is often in a hospital or involved in a serious accident, and is comatose. While he or she is close to death they have a vivid, life-like dream in which they are ascending a staircase to heaven, greeting deceased friends and relatives, or even meeting God. Needless to say, no two death dreams really match. Each one describes a highly personalized concept of heaven. When the patient comes out of their coma they often remember the dream as a very real physical experience. Religionists and cultists use such dreams as "evidence" to support their beliefs in an after-life.

We have investigated several UFO experiences which seem based on death dreams. In one of the most recent, the victim was alone aboard a small boat in the fall of 1971. He heard a beeping sound and observed a brilliant blue light overhead. He had a history of heart attacks and was in an alcoholic stupor at the time. His entire experience lasted 12 hours, during which his boat (which was out of gas) moved several miles. Men in black suits appeared on his boat. Others in frogman garb came out of the water. They wanted him to go with them. Perhaps if he had consented to do so his dead body would have been found on the boat later.

FULL DETAILS OF THE CONTACT EXPERIENCE ARE NOT PUBLICLY KNOWN.

Some persons manage to have combinations of all these experiences. It is unfortunate that so few of their complete stories ever reach print. Police officer Dale Spaur, who was the principal in the sensational Ohio police chase of 1966, later became a contactee, his experiences following the classic patterns. But his story, like so many others, has never been publicly revealed. Menger, Adamski, Derenberger and a few others have managed to publish a minute fraction of their total experiences. The sexual aspects of their adventures were laundered out. When only selected segments written from a posture of belief appear in print it is easy to dismiss them as lies, and nonsense. Even Interrupted Journey, John Fuller's book on the Hill case, deliberately left out the most significant details of their experience. And the details of engineer Wheeler's real experience are now completely lost because the investigators were bent on extracting only those details which supported their personal theories on UFO propulsion. Adequate medical and psychological data is missing from almost all UFO reports.

7. WHERE DO THEY GO?

The UFO "mystery" is based upon two simplistic factors: the superabundance of sightings all over the world, and the testimony of contactees and low-level witnesses. Neither provides real evidence to support the beliefs of the UFO enthusiasts. The intrusion of classic psychic manifestations and hallucinatory factors demolishes the contactee phenomenon. Aerial sightings of machine-like "hard" objects have always been exceedingly rare. So rare that the few that have appeared are very suspect.

The real key to the "mystery" will probably be found in qualified medical studies of the percipients themselves. The big question to be answered is what really happens to the percipient's bodies for hours or days when their minds are taking trips? In other frames of reference "possession" is offered as the answer. That is, another intelligence takes over their bodies, turning them into robots of a sort, using that body to carry out physical activities that would be impossible for a non-physical entity. One prominent ufologist, a college professor, was led to believe that his body was used to carry out a jewel robbery in 1967. He had no memory of it, of course, but he noted that the speedometer on his car registered several miles he didn't remember driving, and he did remember hiding something in a local graveyard. After these experiences he abandoned ufology.

All of these matters must be explored systematically and objectively, not by believers and enthusiasts, but by medical doctors and psychologists. The UFO field has always attracted people who lack the training and discipline to conduct thorough investigations into all the aspects. Most have sought to prove the reality of UFOs, the existence of extraterrestrial life, and even the methods of propulsion, basing their "evidence" on such intangibles as dreams and

hallucinations experienced in a trance state.

As we have stated so often, in so many ways, the phenomena are much more complex than anything envisioned by the believers. We are dealing with forces which can alter reality itself and make us see anything, believe anything, and worst of all, do anything. Every July dozens (perhaps hundreds we don't know about) of people suffer amnesia and vanish. A few come back, baffled and unable to account for their disappearances. Others experience shorter periods of amnesia. And they do know--they think--where they've been. They've been to heaven. Or Antarctica. Or the planet Jupiter.

Each year thousands of people throughout the world see angels, the devil, assorted monsters, even dinosaurs. Others wander into the past or the future, through some mysterious door in the Twilight Zone. Still others are found in a mindless catatonic trance, staring into space, abandoned by their consciousness.

Our little planet is haunted. Are we all biological robots ruled and controlled by some outside force, as the great religions have taught for thousands of years? Or are all of our cults and fringe beliefs based upon the capriciousness of the human mind itself?

(NOTE: This article is part of a larger, more detailed work now in preparation. Please do not reprint without permission.)

HAVE YOU READ THE MIDWICH CUCKOOS?

Always on Rainday

When Apollo 16 lands on the moon in March 1972 and when Apollo 17 touches down in December 1972 take your umbrella. For if the form holds, it will rain in New York City.

Apollo 15 landed Friday to the steady beat of 2.88 inches of rain, a record downpour for a moon day. The pioneering Apollo 11 crew, which started the whole thing—landing and raining—set down on July 20, 1969, when .32 of an inch of rain fell in the city.

Apollo 12's landing date, Nov. 19, 1969, saw .47 of an inch of rain and Apollo 14 landed last Feb. 5 when .65 of an inch fell.

Interestingly although Apollo 13's oxygen tank explosion kept it from keeping its landing date of April 14, 1970, it rained anyway, but only a little—.08 of an inch.

—Jerry Oster

Name of the Game

Raymond Snyder made a "million-to-one" mistake, police in the Chicago suburb of Riverside, Ill., report.

Snyder tried to cash a stolen payroll check at the Riverside National Bank. The check was blank when stolen, police said, and had to be made out to and endorsed by someone.

Police theorized Snyder randomly picked the name "Miles F. Huml" from the telephone directory, filled out the check and went to the bank.

Unfortunately for Snyder, the teller he handed the check to was Mrs. Miles F. Huml. She sounded a silent alarm.

"I looked at the check, and I looked at the man, and I knew he wasn't my husband," Mrs. Huml said.—UPI



Favor Returned 5 Years Later

HORSEHEADS, N.Y. (AP)

—When John Spiak did a good turn for Joe Daly, he was returning a favor but neither realized it until later.

Daly, who was stranded on a highway when his car overheated, was picked up by a motorist after a half-hour wait, and taken to the nearest gas station.

When they introduced themselves, Daly thought the man's name, John Spiak, rang a bell. Then he recalled that he had set flares around an injured man lying in the middle of the road after an accident so that he wouldn't be run over. It was five years before. The man was Spiak.

"I can't be sure whether I'm saying all this or if it's coming from the government"

The Washington Post/Potomac/February 27, 1972

The lonely advocates

by Tom Huth

Peter Mason filed suit in U.S. District Court on Jan. 7, seeking to force the U.S. government "to stop manipulating my body." Mason says that electronic machinery, implanted in his body in stages since he was 6, has left him a puppet.

"Private citizens have something to do with operating this device," he says thoughtfully. "Psychiatrists are involved in it. It involves the Russians to some extent."

He didn't realize he was being manipulated until last summer, Mason says. "Last summer I could feel this information being poured into my brain. I could feel these feelings throughout my body—itchy feelings, aches, little ticks in my head. And this goes on every time I swallow—I feel a tick inside my head."

As far as he can figure, the ticking goes back to the summer of 1968, when he was in San Francisco and worked on Bobby Kennedy's campaign for two days just before the presidential candidate was assassinated in Los Angeles.

One day, he vaguely recalls, a group of "subversives" grabbed him and dragged him behind the war monument at the Presidio "and something was forced into my throat." He adds, "I be-



Peter Mason (above) is protesting an electronic device in his brain which allows the U.S. government to control his mind, he says.

lieve it was part of a plot by subversives to blame the U.S. government for having this device in my body."

Through orbiting satellites, both the U.S. and the Soviet governments controlled his thoughts and actions, Mason says, until last February. At that time he cut his right index finger on a dishwasher, and he says the U.S. government sewed a jamming device into the finger that has prevented the Russians from manipulating him, although they still listen in on his thoughts.

The U.S. government still manipulates him, Mason says, but in a benign manner. For example, a government computer acts as his psychotherapist through the device in his body, he believes. But he would still like the manipulation to stop, because "I sort of feel like a field hand who has moved into the house. I'm getting certain benefits, but I'm not free."

Continued

So on Jan. 6, Mason picketed *The Washington Post*, handing out leaflets and wearing a sandwich board that said "Free My Brain" on the front and "Print My Story" on the back. Later that day he went around the corner to the Soviet embassy. A handwritten note on his press release tells what happened: "The person I talked to denied knowing anything about the device. When I told him that I believe the U.S. government is now operating the device, he suggested I ask elsewhere about it. I said I thought a subversive group planted it in my body, and I thought the embassy might have information about how it got there. He said it didn't."

The next day he planned to picket *The New York Times* Washington bureau and the White House, but decided that would do little good, so he filed suit that day instead. He says he is not sure whether he will picket again.

Mason, 35, says that he worked as an editor for the Agriculture Department for 2½ years (until he was manipulated into having a conflict with his boss), and then worked briefly as a writer with a private Washington firm in 1970 (where he was again manipulated into quitting).

Since then he has worked without pay on "national security," as he calls his predicament. He lives on savings in a Georgetown apartment.

Mason says he grew up in Madison, N.Y., and graduated from Choate School in Connecticut and Colgate University. His father was a lawyer, he says, and his mother was manipulated.

During an interview, Mason stopped short a few times to receive information from the government. At one of these points he said.

"I just asked for information as to whether my father had such a device in his body. And the government said it didn't know. It said, 'What do you think?' And what do I think? I don't know. I thought back to them—it sounds crazy but I thought back to them that 'he had a lot of hang-ups left over from his own childhood.' And they said, 'Well, that's your answer then?' And I said, 'No.' And they said, 'Well, then he didn't have a device.'"

A lot of his problems, Mason says, result from friction between his father and mother and his own Oedipal feelings about his mother. "I had problems dealing with people, making friends, love problems."

Last year was a busy year for Peter Mason. First, he says, he was peripherally involved in the bombing of the Capitol. The bombing was done by U.S. senators themselves, he believes, but the real issue was a test of wills between the United States and the Soviet Union over who would get the blame for placing the device in Mason's body.

Then in the spring, he says, he spent a week in the Washington Hospital Center. "My brother and doctors and friends wanted me to believe there was a plot against the government. They told me I was going there for mental reasons, and I felt they were putting me there to protect me... against the situation at that time."

In the summer, Mason returned to San Francisco

to retrace his steps of 1968, when he worked for Kennedy and had the device slipped into his throat. He says he was trying to establish a connection between Kennedy's presence and the plot to bug his body.

When he got back to Washington, he went to report to President Nixon that there was no such connection. He expected Mr. Nixon to welcome him, but instead the Secret Service stopped him at the gate and sent him to St. Elizabeths Hospital for observation.

He stayed for two months, then walked out on Nov. 23. "I hopped on a bus and came home," he says. "They manipulated me to do this, through the device." It was similar, he says, to the time he walked out on a psychiatrist. "It is part of the therapy. . . By defending my position and attaining victory in some way, I become more confident in what I do."

The day after he left, St. Elizabeths officially discharged Mason. Since then he has been working on deactivating the device and contemplating his situation.

"A hell of a lot of my life, as I'm beginning to see now, has been controlled from outside," he says. "So I'm not going to blame myself for anything I've ever done, you know."

He is somewhat philosophical about the device. "If I've been of some service to the country, I'm glad that I was able to," he says. "... The government hasn't picked on me. They've helped me... I don't think they wanted to get into it in the first place. It's only because of national security that they've continued with it."

The national security aspect—an intricate problem of which country is going to be blamed for the device in Mason's body—is going to be taken up when President Nixon visits Moscow this spring, Mason says he has been told.

"The U.S. right now," he says, "this is one of their goals, to calm the whole situation. I'm the guy who's had this thing operating in his body, and if I came out and said, 'He did this and he did that,' a lot of people are going to believe what I say and there's going to be a lot of unrest"

Until the device is deactivated, Mason says, he'll have to continue living with a sometimes baffling situation.

"I don't know where I leave off and the device begins," he says. "... I can't be sure whether I'm saying all this or if it's coming from the government."

That's the problem, the subtlety of the device, he says. "It imitates my particular way of being. The great danger of our country is that someone could have this device in his body and not be aware of it. If they wanted to, they could accentuate the differences, and this would drive me crazy."

Mason occasionally will apologize, "I hate to say 'I'm being told' all the time; I'd like to have my own thoughts on this."

But when the government doesn't supply all the information and he tries to speak for himself, Peter Mason sometimes discovers that "I don't know all the ins and outs of it. That's the disadvantage of being a puppet—you're stuck there without all the information. I'd rather be a human."

books

DR. HYNEK : SMELLING SMOKE

I.T. SANDERSON: PUTTING OUT FIRES

E. VON DANIKEN: CUSTARD PIE IN THE SKY

DR. J. ALLEN HYNEK's long-awaited book, The UFO Experience (Regnery, \$6.95) finally appeared in May. Only five thousand copies have been printed so it is likely to be hard to find. We suggest you order it direct from the publisher, or from one of the specialty mail order houses (Barker of W. Va., Paradise of Texas, Flying Saucer News Bookstore of Manhattan, etc.). UFO books are currently slow-sellers and most book dealers refuse to stock them (our own tome, Operation Trojan Horse, published in 1970, sold only 3,400 copies in the U.S.). But if you twist the arm of the owner of your local bookstore he may order the book for you...a process that can take many weeks. Some of the UFO organizations and societies will undoubtedly lay in a supply and you can help them by ordering your copy from them.

Dr. Hynek's background and activities are so well-known it is hardly necessary to comment on them. His book is almost an apologia and it is difficult to review it without being unkind. We have never met the man although we have maintained a lively correspondence with some of his closest associates and a number of friends have spent time with him. All who have met him share Captain Ruppelt's very high opinion of him (Ruppelt devoted several glowing paragraphs to Hynek in his 1956 book, The Report on Unidentified Flying Objects). Hynek enjoys a fine reputation as a brilliant observer of the UFO scene who has operated behind that scene for 22 years, serving as "a periodic consultant" to the U.S. Air Force and gathering scientific colleagues to the UFO cause. He has established himself as the world's foremost UFO spokesman and, since 1966, has acted as perhaps the only cohesive force in a field torn apart by dissenting opinions, personality conflicts and outrageous nonsense.

One would expect any book written by Dr. Hynek to be the last word on the subject. Unfortunately, The UFO Experience is a great disappointment and vastly inferior to Dr. Vallee's Anatomy of a Phenomenon, a 1966 effort which tackled the same matters more effectively and scientifically. At best, Hynek's work can be rated with the very earliest UFO books, often naive in tone, intensely personal, inordinately defensive, and, lastly, a belabored attempt to "sell" the reality of the phenomenon to the reader. The overall approach has become archaic and Hynek has chosen not to reveal whatever he may have learned in his twenty-year sojourn through the never-never land of flying saucers. It is an unexpectedly shallow book, overly subjective and unfairly critical of the Air Force and Dr. Condon. Hynek's vituperations are ill-mannered and ill-advised.

The theme is simply that somebody ought to do something...that where there's smoke there must be fire. How often have we heard this since 1947? Since 1966, Hynek has been advocating a \$2,000,000 computer study and a worldwide United Nations UFO project, presumably with himself as the head. Before the AF signed a contract with Colorado University he made a strenuous effort to obtain financial backing from the AF and other Washington agencies and offices. In a way, The UFO Experience reads in part like a sloppy non-professional presentation for these projects...a new appeal for support and funds. It seems to be largely directed at the sceptics in the scientific community but his amateurish sales pitch is not likely to sway many of them.

On other levels, Hynek is constantly attacking the Air Force for inaction while constantly apologizing for his own rather puzzling ineffectiveness. He was certainly the one man in a position to influence the AF methodology and UFO program during the 1950's, yet he clearly never made any attempt to rock the boat. He feebly explains that he was just biding his time, keeping his foot in the door so he could have entree to the AF's UFO files. Then he states that those files were practically worthless! It would be reasonable for a man in his position to go along with the AF nonsense for a year or two while trying to make changes from the inside. But to persevere for twenty years is ridiculous and strongly suggests a dismaying lack of integrity. Each time Hynek tries to defend himself in this book he ends up making himself seem indefensible. He attacks Dr. Menzel mainly because Menzel is an astronomer and UFOs are outside his field. Of course, Hynek is also an astronomer and the same criticism could be applied to him. Menzel's compulsive efforts to explain the UFO phenomenon were backed by extensive research equaling, perhaps, Hynek's own.

Dr. Condon gets more than his share of lumps in The UFO Experience as Hynek rehashes Dr. Saunderson's fine expose' of the whole Colorado mess. Although the Condon Report had virtually no effect on public opinion it may have influenced some members of the scientific community, so Hynek is anxious to correct the record. He even bothers to reprint in toto the resignation of Condon's secretary. But this section will bore most UFO enthusiasts who have heard it all before. Hynek's attack is more a demonstration of his own peevishness than an effective repudiation of the Condon Report.

Those who like to read cases and correlations will be disappointed by the material in the book, although there are a few fine sections worthy of any collector. But he sometimes relies on bewhiskered old cases (such as the famous Hopkinsville, Ky. "little men" incident of the 1950's) and rambles through pointless dissertations that lack a firm point of view. He is wary of expressing any real opinions on the phenomenon, itself. This has been his tact all along. He keeps telling us that his 20-odd years in UFO research have produced nothing, that as a "periodic consultant" to the Air Force he was never consulted and his main role was to find astronomical explanations for the inadequate reports collected by Blue Book, and that the only way to come to grips with the problem is to repeat the early AF expenditures, experiments and fiascoes. (Our own views on this approach are detailed in our three books) He does make some effort to define various aspects of the phenomenon but shows too much willingness to discard the

all-important manifestations of schizophrenia which have generated the contactee lore. Parts of The UFO Experience could have been written by Donald Keyhoe. Other parts seem to spring intact from the early works of Scully, Michel and Jessup, all products of the age of innocence of the 1950's. (Michel, the only survivor of that period, now openly refutes his early findings and speculations.) Hynek goes into some detail about his "strangeness index", an abortive attempt to systematize subjective strangeness in the reports (what might seem very strange to Dr. Hynek might also seem very orthodox to Gardner Murphy), and he dabbles with probabilities to little or no effect. He wastes space with a number of tables that are utterly meaningless, and endless quotes from anonymous UFO witnesses.

The UFO Experience has merit only as a collector's item, a curiosa item. It may well be the last major UFO book for a long time to come. As such, every UFO enthusiast will probably want a copy. Its scientific value will be questioned by Dr. Hynek's peers; its value as a research document will be widely discussed in the UFO media (and in recent years Dr. Hynek has courted the UFO enthusiasts rather shamelessly, transparently trying to build an audience for this book). It probably is the last word on the subject. If it fails to sell well the major publishers will certainly avoid the subject in the future.

While Dr. Hynek has been grumbling about the "smoke" IVAN T. SANDERSON has been busy putting out the fires. Sanderson's books are invaluable research tools in spite of his tendency to turn bits of over-ripe speculation into fact. His Invisible Residents contained the first comprehensive tables of incidents in and around the notorious Bermuda Triangle. Now he has shifted his attention to skyfalls, among other things, and Investigating the Unexplained (Prentice-Hall, \$6.95) features a catalog of all the strange things that have dropped from the sky in ancient and modern times. We know how much work goes into compiling tables of this sort and Sanderson deserves lavish praise for tackling the job. This book also contains much information on monsters, archaeological wonders, and various other anomalies, written in a wry, entertaining style. Ivan T. Sanderson is undoubtedly the world's leading authority on Fortean today. You can join his Society for the Investigation of the Unexplained (SITU) by sending ten bucks to Ivan Sanderson, Columbia, N.J. This also entitles you to his lively journal Pursuit.

At last report, author Erich Von Daniken (Chariots of the Gods) was sitting in a Swiss Jail, serving five years for fraud because of his financial manipulations. His new opus, Gods From Outer Space is now out in paperback and is a great improvement over his earlier work. Chariots was poorly translated and filled with horrendous typographical errors. Gods advances the theory (not original with Daniken by any means) that the Earth was originally settled by beings from outer space. He supports the notion with some intriguing historical, mythological and archaeological evidence. But it is apparent that he is slowly moving in the direction of such books as Gods, Demons and UFOs by Warren Smith and Passport To Magonia by Dr. Jacques Vallee. Essentially, he has come to realize that early man was apparently influenced by unknown beings of unknown origin. By his fourth or fifth book-- if he gets that far-- he will probably abandon the whole spaceman bag and jump on the New Ufology bandwagon. He is now in the process...a painful one we might add...of learning to separate facts from belief. Pick up a copy of Gods From Outer Space even if you hated Chariots of the Gods. Daniken is becoming a major writer in this field and his books are international best-sellers.

Following in the footsteps of Daniken is Jean Sendy, author of Those Gods Who Made Heaven and Earth (Berkley Medall. paperback). A bit of a "nut" book, this is yet another attempt to make new sense of the Bible. Some sections are very interesting, however, and probably more valid than Von Daniken's efforts.

The problems and findings of modern parapsychology are identical to those of ufology and Fortean. In Apparitions and Ghosts by British parapsychologist Andrew MacKenzie many of these parallels are spelled out and the current theories are succinctly reviewed.

MORE ON CYCLES: In Our Haunted Planet, pages 94-96, we repeated the findings of the Bell Laboratories' computer study of Fortean events. They discovered that skyfalls, freak storms, etc. seemed to follow a cycle of 9.6 years. Now the Foundation for the Study of Cycles (their magazine, Cycles, costs \$15 per year; 124 South Highland Ave., Pittsburgh, Pa. 15206) reports that no less than 28 separate generic phenomena peak at 9.2-year intervals. These phenomena range from stock prices to sunspots. Another 35 phenomena move up and down over a 54-year period. A four-year cycle seems to include UFOs, cheese consumption, and the number of Arctic fox in Canada. There is also an 18.2-year cycle. "Maybe they are all caused by something else we don't know about," notes Charles Burnham, a cycle-watcher in Chicago, "--some master cycle that influences all the rest."

While Dr. Hynek and his colleagues have been hedging and muddling about in confusion, the scientific staff of the National Lampoon has been getting down to the nitty gritty of ufology. Their June 1972 issue devotes considerable space to the subject and offers startling insights into the whole extraterrestrial question. Why do the ETs thirst for ammonia? Read the frank and amazing answer in the National Lampoon. Even Buck Nelson is represented. A collector's item. Send a buck to National Lampoon, 635 Madison Ave., New York, N.Y. 10022.



JEAN DRISSELL
Director of Public Information

NEWS RELEASE

WHAT DO CONSUMERS GRIPE ABOUT?
BETTER BUSINESS BUREAU HAS ANSWER

NEW YORK, N.Y.--- Furniture topped the list of consumer gripes to the Better Business Bureau of Metropolitan New York in 1971.

The Better Business Bureau today released its annual list of the "top 10" in consumer complaints and consumer inquiries. Last year, the Bureau received 83,502 complaints and 145,275 inquiries. Complaints rose 21 percent and inquiries, which always outnumber complaints, rose 22 percent over 1970's figures. The Bureau's statistics cover 141 different products and services.

TOP 10 COMPLAINTS

⇒ Furniture5103
⇒ Magazines, mail order4887
Apparel4132
Books, mail order.....3517
Drugs and cosmetics.....3058
Home Furnishings.....2938
Appliances (repair).....2475
New cars.....2420
Car repairs (except trans.).....1814
Sales of appliances1464

TOP 10, INQUIRIES

Business opportunities6844
Home improvements.....6842
Retail transactions, misc.....4940
New cars4308
Furniture3989
Waterproofing3598
Drugs and cosmetics.....3424
Moving and storage.....3405
Real estate.....3382
Special trade contractors.....3365

An inquiry occurs when a consumer calls the Bureau to ask about a business with a firm, or simply to ask about a service or product he has heard about.

The Bureau's statistics are based on complaints and inquiries received from people in Manhattan, New York City, and the surrounding area.

The Bureau's statistics are based on complaints and inquiries received from people who have ordered magazines and books from New York companies. In most cases there is no way we can help out. If it is any consolation, this statement from the Better Business Bureau shows that complaints about the failure of companies to deliver books and magazines rank very high on the list. This is not a problem isolated to the UFO field.

service over the previous year's figures and inquiries and matters outside the latter category includes referrals in



The famous "Surgeon's Photograph" was taken in 1934 at Loch Ness with a quarter plate camera and small telephoto lens. Dinsdale says the shape resembles the object he saw in Foyers Bay in 1971.

By Henry Allen

Tim Dinsdale, who is looking for the Loch Ness monster, has a deal with Peter Byrne, who is looking for Oregon's "Big Foot" monster, neither of which is to be confused with the abominable snowman, Arkansas' White River or Fouke monsters, the Ogopogo of British Columbia, the Brazilian tunguru, the "goatman" of Prince George's County, the unicorn, phoenix, gryphon, cameleopard, (or Howard Hughes.)

"Whichever man gets his monster first will come over and help the other," says Dinsdale, a 47-year-old Englishman who has spent the last 14 years hunting the Loch Ness monster with boat, camera, submarine, sonar, bait, sex hormones, and recorded aquatic love calls.

"Just proving that one of them exists will help break down the prejudice of the scientific community against the existence of the other," says Dinsdale, who is interested in little more than proving that "Nessie," as intimates of the chase call it, exists.

"After all, the Loch Ness monster has little more intrinsic interest as an animal than a cow," he says.

On April 23, 1980, when he says he filmed the monster with a 16-mm windup Bolex from a distance of 1,667 yards, he proved its existence to his own satisfaction. But the rest of mankind, except the hundreds of witnesses of Nessie's surfacings, is more skeptical, having traditionally been reluctant to accept the existence of anything for which there is neither an enormous amount of proof or almost none at all.

But if Byrne gets his Big Foot out in the thicket of southern Oregon, Dinsdale suspects the world will look at the Loch Ness photographs and aerial surveillance team reports and sonar charts and eye-witness sketches, and finally admit that it's there.

Dinsdale is married, with four children. He is slight and goateed, with a penchant for exclamations like "By GOLLY!" and for confiding the amazements of his 14 years on the loch in a

In a Small Boat at Night on Loch Ness, a Feeling of Dread

stream of facts punctuated with gasps, chortles, raised eyebrows and sotto-voce leanings-forward. It's the energy of a cheerful monomania that fails to display in an hour's conversation any of the paranoia one associates with the occult phenomena crowd.

He doesn't think anyone is against him. He doesn't view his hunt as a divine crusade.

In town last week on a lecture and publicity tour for his book, "Monster Hunt," Dinsdale explained: "I suppose it sounds pretentious and hammy, but anybody with scientific training has an obligation to the truth."

Dinsdale was trained and employed as an aeronautical engineer until 1961, when he quit to devote the bulk of his time to huddling in photographic batteries mounted in the bleak Highlands splendor of the hills around the loch; to tape recording the accounts of witnesses; to working with the Americans who brought over a yellow submarine; to floating

around all alone in a small boat—a pastime that seems to enthrall Englishmen—for 82 days last summer on the loch's 30 square miles of peat-colored water, hoping that his recurrent nightmare about the monster wouldn't come true, which it did, last Sept. 6.

In his nightmare, the monster would rise from the loch in its awful serpentine splendor, and Dinsdale would leap for his cameras, with vindication a shutter's click away, except that none of them, movie, still, color, black-and-white, would work, and all his years of research and spending, starting in 1959, would be wasted.

In the book, Dinsdale talks about pitching down the loch in his 16-foot boat named "Water Horse" one stormy day, "quite the wrong conditions for observation. Standing at the wheel I glanced to starboard and instantly recognized a shape I had seen so often in a photograph, the famous 'Surgeon's Photograph' of 1934—but it was alive and mus-

cular! Incredulous, I stood for a moment without moving. All I could do was stare. Then I saw the neck-like object whip back underwater, only to reappear briefly, then go down in a boil of white foam. There was a battery of five cameras within inches of my right hand, but I made no move towards them."

He had discovered the hard way that when four feet of monster neck, as big as a telephone pole, bursts from the water 200 yards away, the last thing you worry about is getting a picture of it. So now, Dinsdale is training himself to shoot photographs from the hip, tommy-gun style, because he's going back to the loch again this April, as he always does, to hunt through September, aided by dozens of volunteers.

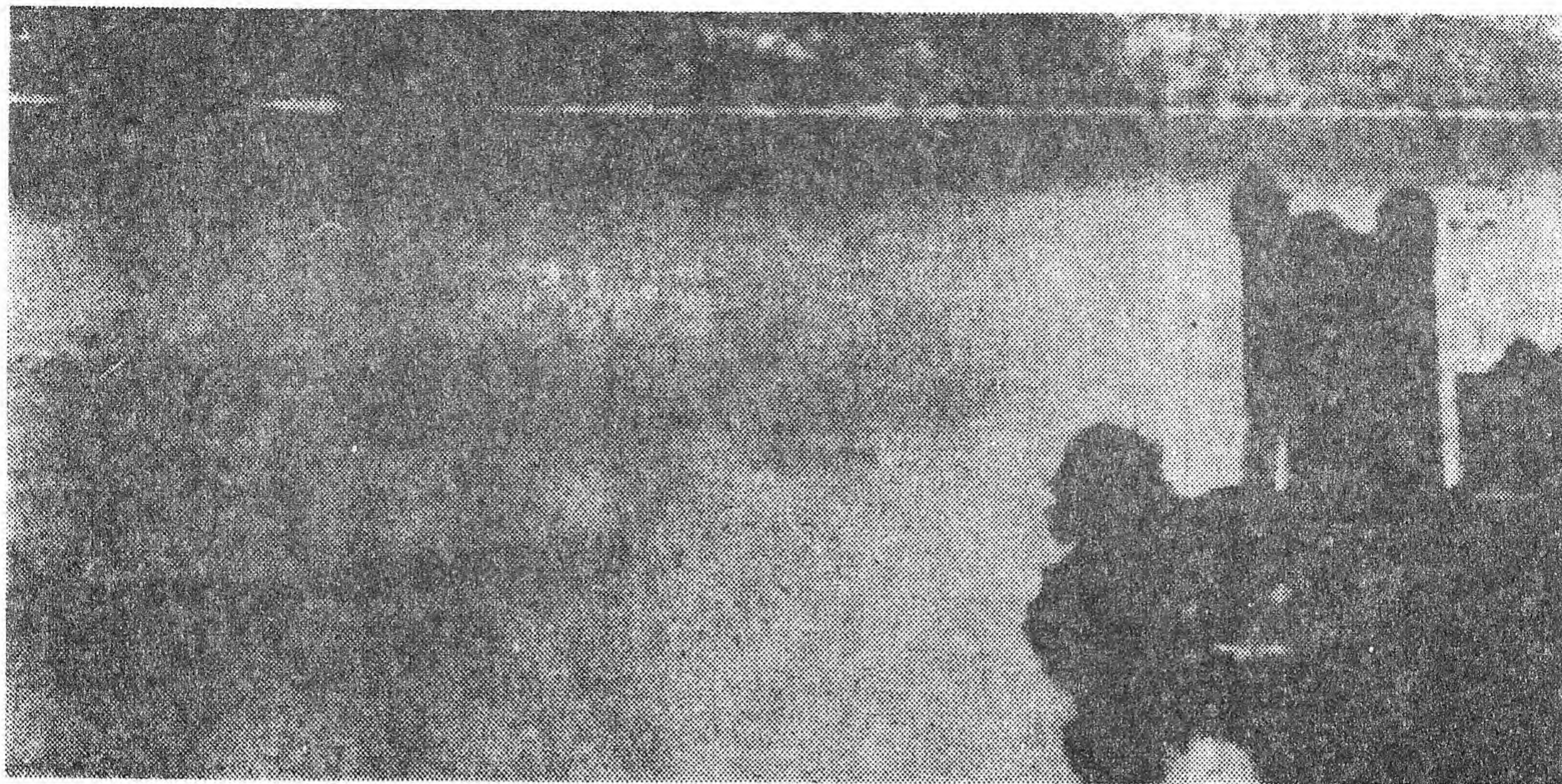
Intellectually, and scientifically, he disclaims the hex that is said to afflict those who seek Nessie. He refuses to believe the villagers who burr: "You'll ne'er get a picture o' the beastie."

He has noted the Celtic



By Margaret Thomas—The Washington Post

Tim Dinsdale, who devotes his time to finding the Loch Ness monster: "Just proving that one of them exists will help break down the prejudice."



The MacNab photo, taken in 1955 with a hand-held camera and 6-inch telephoto lens, provides a reference to scale. Urquhart Castle tower on Loch Ness stands 64 feet.

legend that anyone who seeks the "water kelpie" is inviting doom, and the old sea lore about the ill fate that awaits anyone who attacks any of the sea monsters that have been sighted down through the centuries, monsters remarkably similar, in many cases, to most descriptions of Nessie.

As a scientist, he says, he cannot accept these superstitions. But then again, he moved all of his observation equipment out of the loch's Bay of Dead Men after a particularly bad run of luck—pneumonia and a near-drowning, among other things.

trapped in the loch as the land rose, and cut off from the North Sea, seven miles away.

But Dinsdale has a working hypothesis that it's a descendant of an ancient creature called "plesiosaurus" by paleontologists, a dinosaur-like vertebrate known to have been aquatic in some cases.

Skeletal evidence of the plesiosaurus is too meager for scientists to build the sort of model featured in natural history museums, but the evidence doesn't rule out the possibility that Nessie, as described, is a long lost heir of an animal

through the water at speeds up to 15 miles an hour.

This description resembles those of the Norwegian "soe orm," or various Swedish lake monsters, or the beasts sighted in Siberian lakes, or Canada's Ogopogo or Manipogo monsters, or Malaysia's nagaq, or the moha moha seen off Queensland, Australia, or the monster sighted in Loch Morao, near Loch Ness.

A Royal Air Force analysis of Dinsdale's 1960 footage, and a University of Birmingham sonar analysis, as reported in Dinsdale's book, indicated that unclas-

On the Monster Trail

And there were two nights out on the loch, alone on "Water Horse," when, in the middle of the cozy solitude of those dark vigils, he heard nothing, saw nothing, smelled nothing—but felt nothing but:

"Dread. That's the only word I have to describe it. Dread. I wasn't alone. I knew it."

After his sighting last September, he describes the monster as "very ugly." He says that others who have seen more of it have described it as "loathsome," a feeling of revulsion which has led some theorists to believe that Nessie is some breed of giant sea slug

said to have vanished 70 million years ago—which is when the coelocanth was supposed to have died out, too—until the coelocanth was discovered alive and well in the deepest parts of the Mediterranean a few years ago, Dinsdale eagerly points out.

The beast in 1,000-foot deep Loch Ness has been seen in sizes ranging from 3 to 60 feet long. As described by Dinsdale, and the witnesses he quotes, it has an elongated, sometimes hairy neck topped by a head like an alligator's or a cow's, a body bearing four flippers, three humps on its spine, and a tail that can thrash it

sified animate objects (Dinsdale believes it's a colony, not a single monster) exist in the loch.

The RAF analysis stated: "The object photographed was not a surface vessel and had a speed of some 10 mph." And: "It may be deduced that a cross section through the object would be not less than 6 feet wide and 5 feet high."

The University of Birmingham's sonarscopes were reported as picking up an object "with a horizontal velocity component along the range axis of the order of 15 knots while diving 450 feet per minute. It appears to

Oklahomans Looking For 'Abominable Chicken Man'

OKLAHOMA CITY (AP) — There's something out there. It walks like a gorilla, leaves hand prints like a man, rips doors off their hinges, and it likes chickens.

For want of a better name we'll call him Oklahoma's Abominable Chicken Man.

It's a long story and it goes like this.

An El Reno farmer walked out to his chicken coop one day in December and found its door on the ground, apparently thrown there after being ripped off the wall.

On the surface of the door, and inside the coop on the walls, were a number of strange hand prints—like none he'd ever seen before. They were about seven inches long and five inches wide.

The farmer called a state game ranger. The ranger had never seen anything like it either and he sent the door to the Oklahoma City Zoo to

see what experts could make of the prints.

The experts were baffled too. Zoo Director Lawrence Curtis says the prints appear to be like those of a primate. A primate is an animal like a gorilla or a man that can stand erect.

The thumb of the print is unusual. Curtis says it crooks inside, as if it were deformed or had been injured.

"It resembles a gorilla," he said, "but it's more like a man."

"It appears that whatever made the prints was walking on all fours. There were some footprints on the ground outside," he said. Whatever it was was barefoot. Barefoot in December.

Since Curtis got the first print he has had reports of similar finds around the state. A man in Stillwater and a woman in McAlester have told him of discovering similar

prints. The woman has a photograph she is mailing to the zoo for comparison.

Oklahoma has only four native animals big enough to leave such prints; the black bear, the mountain lion, the wolf and man. Curtis has ruled out all but the last.

"We've shown it to several mammologists and several wildlife experts in Oklahoma and some passing through. All agree it is a primate," he said. "These prints were made by some sort of a man, perhaps one looking for chickens."

Asked about the wide distances between the points reporting similar prints, Curtis said, "If there is one there is more than one. There has to be more than one unless he's hitchhiking."

There are no zoos in El Reno, no circuses and no one known to be keeping a gorilla. In fact the only thing in the

area that "keeps" primates—in this case men—is the federal reformatory just on the outskirts of town.

The Abominable Chicken Man is being compared with reports of similar findings from California. In this case people have reported seeing a seven-foot man-like creature wandering in the northern wilds. They call him Bigfoot, after the large tracks he makes.

Curtis is trying to find a book and a magazine article that tell about the Bigfoot sightings. He's anxious to make a comparison.

In the meantime he has the chicken coop door in his office for reference, and one supposes, for conversation.

There's not much else to go on until somebody reports actually seeing the Abominable Chicken Man.

There are a lot of people looking

MONSTER, From 156

have a length of several meters."

Dinsdale writes: "Cryptic comments such as these mean little to the layman, but to those familiar with fish behavior and swim bladder tolerance to pressure change, such velocities rule out fish, as does the 'length of several meters.' The largest animal in Loch Ness, other than a stag swimming on the surface, would perhaps be a 40-pound salmon some 4 feet in length."

St. Adamnan, who was abbot of Iona in A.D. 679, was the first writer to report the monster. Since then, it has lured a number of hoaxers and eccentrics, along with the scientific expeditions and tourists who gather around the lake each summer.

It's Who Catches One First

"We have our lunatic fringe," Dinsdale says. "There's one middle-aged gentleman who comes round frequently and lets us know the real secret in most confidential tones. A few years ago it was a giant moth, he said. Now he says it's a penguin."

The April Fool's day report of a giant carcass washed ashore was accurate, Dinsdale says, but the carcass was that of an elephant seal, which looks like a huge seal or walrus, planted there by pranksters.

Besides, the carcass of a beast like Nessie is more apt to sink from the weight of its bones, like a crocodile, than wash ashore, Dinsdale

says, accounting for the lack of plesiosaurus corpses on Loch Ness beaches.

Dinsdale is proud to note that the Scottish constabulary stopped the truck bearing off the carcass. He stated that no one was going to remove anything controversial from Loch Ness, at least until Dinsdale or somebody proves that Nessie is really there, nothing controversial about it or them, just a 70-million-year-old colony of sea monsters. We'll then be able to forget about the whole thing and go back to worrying about flying, extra-sensory perception, Big Foot monsters, Howard Hughes, angels dancing on the head of a pin...

BELLY ACHES

(The following items were located by researcher Angelo Capparella III.)

Charlotte, N.C. Daily Observer, July 24, 1897.

(Philadelphia Record) "Authentic stories of the ejection of live lizards from the human stomach aren't of infrequent occurrence, but by his performance in that line on Friday last Morris Collins, of Angora, has certainly become a record-breaker. After an ill-duration Collins suddenly began on Friday and vomited no less in size from $3\frac{1}{2}$ inches to $\frac{1}{2}$ lizards Collins rapidly in now able to be about. That can be little doubt, as the several persons who were in the time, and as additional reptiles, which he has pre-bottle. Besides the 36 whole heads and tails of several however, are quite small.... when informed of the number the specimens in the bottle, the most remarkable that had ation. How the reptiles got mystery to Collins, who can presence upon the theory that of their spawn when quenching health has been on the mend covering lost weight rapidly.

Statesville, N.C.

(Testimony of James O. Lack-" I for several years have in my stomach, and the longer treated by some as good physicians as we have and con-versed with a dozen or more, agree....It seemed that there at length one day I took about three-quarters of a box of Dr. Bachmann's Vermifuge confections. The next day I took a full box, then I was afterwards taking Dr. Dunlap's Liver Regulator and Blood Cleanser for some days after. I passed something of the spring lizard tribe, it being somewhat decayed, so its size around I could not get, but its length was exactly ten and three-quarters inches. Its color was near perfect white, and I am happy to say to you today that since then I have not had any more spells and have not even felt the symptoms but am not stout by any means and never will be again."

March 1972

Hanoi: Monster Removed From Man

Reuter

HONG KONG, March 17—North Vietnamese doctors have killed a ten-inch long "monster" with head, tongue, teeth and legs growing inside a 22-year-old man, the North Vietnamese news agency reported today.

"The monster was located between the liver, the right kidney and the right lung," the news agency said.

"It weighed 1.5 kilograms (3 pounds, 5 ounces) and measured 25 centimeters (10 inches) in length. It had a monstrous tongue capping the head which had a cyclopic eye and vestiges of the jaw with well-formed teeth," the agency said.

The agency did not identify the patient, nor did it say whether he was feeling any better.

ness of several weeks came sick at the stomach than 36 lizards, varying inch. After vomiting the proved in health, and is the case is genuine there lizards are vouched for by the house with Collins at proof the man exhibits the served in alcohol in a reptiles, there are the others, all of which, The attending physician, of lizards, and when shown pronounced the case to be ever come under his observ-into his stomach is a only account for their he must have swallowed some his thirst at a spring. His since Friday and he is re-

Landmark, May 27, 1886.

ney; Alexander County, N.C.) been suffering with a pain the worse. I have been sicians as we have and con-and it seemed as if none would was no relief for me...when

No Definite Explanation

Stars, Air Ships, Hot Air Balloons Or Meteors?

By CHAP MILIS

Something peculiar floated in the skies of Elgin nearly 75 years ago and to this day nobody can offer a definite explanation of what it was.

Perhaps it was only an unusually bright star. Or maybe even a near-by meteor. But the "mysterious body" created quite a stir in the city and many people began referring to it as an "illuminated airship."

The Daily Courier-News became interested in the subject when a reader mailed in a yellowed news clipping with an April 10, 1897 dateline. The brief news article from Elgin read:

"Last midnight Policeman Younger saw a mysterious body moving slowly in the heavens. It was in outline like a ship, showing a red, blue and large white light. It seemed to come from West Chicago and after reaching Elgin turned about and slowly disappeared to the south. Others claimed to have seen the ship."

A bit of research showed that all four newspapers serving Elgin at that time carried a story on the strange objects but none of them really solved the mystery. The report of the Daily Courier says:

"The phenomenon the Chicago papers ascribe to an illuminated airship — or star in Orion — was seen by several here, some of whom swear it was no star. Abel Hare, conductor on a Geneva and Elgin car, saw it. When the car left Elgin at nine o'clock it was in the east, and at ten o'clock had moved to the west and they lost sight of it."

But the Daily Courier story is only a teaser when compared to the more detailed (and more questionable) story found in the Elgin Weekly

Courier a week after the initial sighting. It was headlined "Many Saw The Air Ship" and "Some Say They Saw People In It Very Clearly":

"In common with the remainder of the cities of northern Illinois, Elgin is favored nightly with a view of the air ship, or the star that has agitated the people during the past few days. Sunday night hundreds of people congregated at Chicago Street bridge and watched the strange light.

"It was moving a little above the horizon in the western sky and resembled electric lights on a tower from a distance. Trainmen claim that operators say that some stockmen claim that the ship had a breakdown near Elburn and came down for repairs.

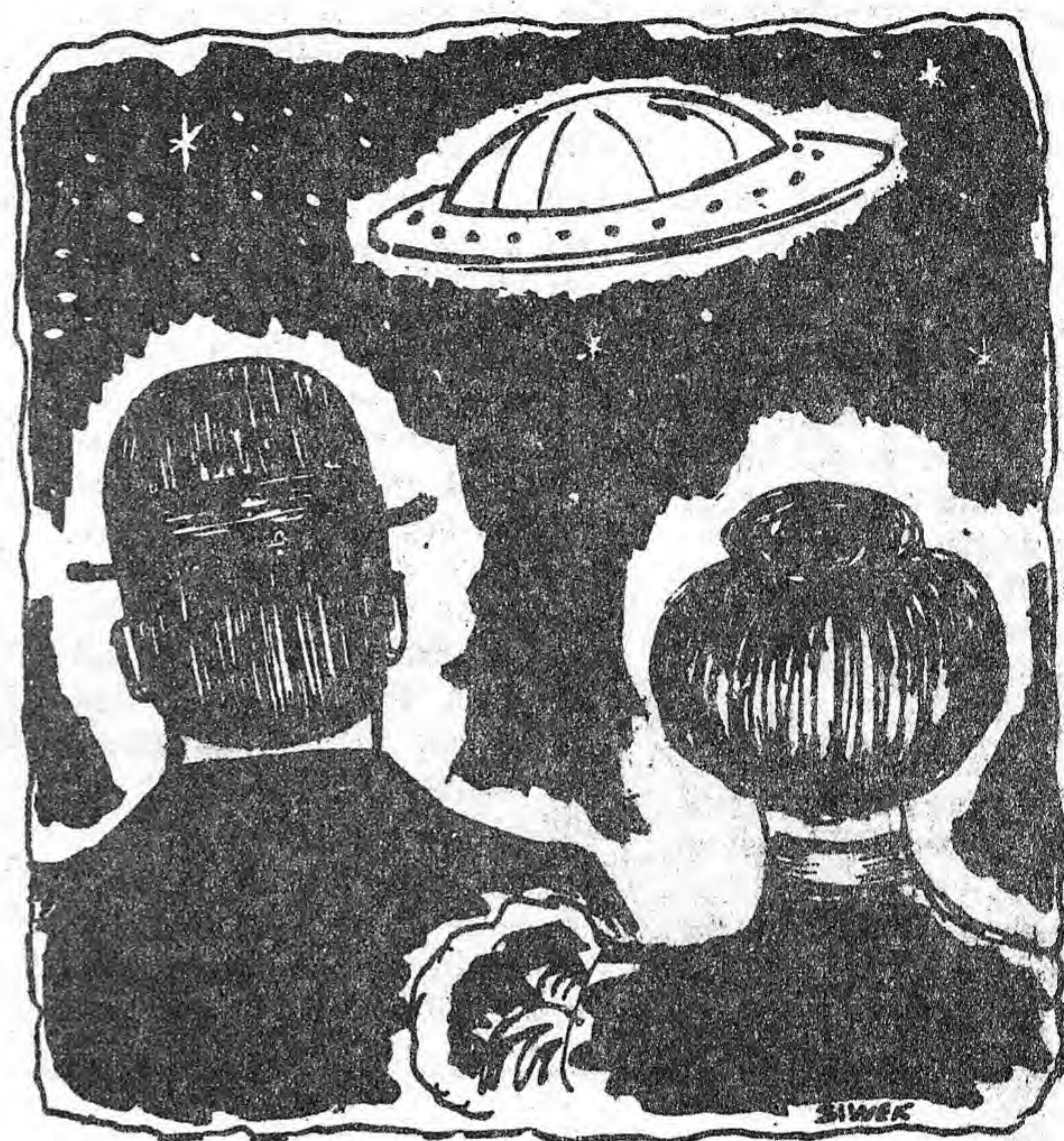
"These farmers came across it and found that two men occupied it. The machine apparently weighed about five hundred pounds and was made of some light substance like aluminum. They conversed with the men but learned little. The men said they were going from the Pacific to the Atlantic coast and were following the Northwestern railway."

All of this supposedly took place six years before the Wright Brothers launched the first airplane.

But the Weekly Courier has more:

"Hundreds were engaged last Monday in gazing at air ships. The attention of residents of South State Street was first attracted to a strange light directly over the electric tower at Villa and St. Charles streets. It seemed to be a cigar-shaped object with a bright light beneath.

"It was visible for two hours or more and some folks distinctly saw two men in it — one of them at the helm. With



glass, another thought he could read the words: 'Use Lydia Linkum's Balm For The Imagination' in illuminated letters.

"When the rain had soaked the kite with a Japanese lantern for its tail, which small boys had flown, the cord parted and the 'ship' came down, being found this morning at the driving park. A reporter for a Chicago paper was here Tuesday to see Kerney Hunn's 'air ship' captured after a nine day chase in the wilds of South Elgin."

One reporter from the weekly newspaper "Every Saturday" took to the streets and talked to the people about the so-called air ships. The responses made for an interesting story:

"This air ship business is going to help the saloon traffic by driving men to drink if it keeps up. While Elginites

were seeing the ship travel west, Milwaukeeites were seeing it making tracks to the east. Yet Milwaukee is east of Elgin.

"It seems evident that wherever these floating mysteries originated the incubator must have hatched a whole flock of them. The heavens are full of air ships, or else the people of the middle west are afflicted with boa constrictors.

"I have interviewed several who saw or think they saw the air ship, and have jotted down their descriptions. One fourth warder thought it looked like an inverted elephant with fire in its eyes.

"A Douglas Avenue merchant likened it to a brilliant sun of small calibre. A Home Bank block insurance agent said it looked to him like a ballet girl dancing a can-can on a crescent moon of resplendent silver.

"One of our aldermen from the fifth ward said to him it bore a resemblance to a big frog, all aglow with irridescent fire. A popular musician saw it but to him it bore the appearance of a translucent bee hive, lighted with electric lights. Now what on earth did these good people see?"

A couple of days after the object's initial appearance, "The Elgin Evening Dial" came out with perhaps the most objective story about the mystery and offered what appears to be a plausible explanation:

"Men who claim to have seen the 'air ship' with its colored lights that has appeared simultaneously over Illinois, Iowa and Nebraska were again numerous in Elgin last evening and who would laugh at the idea had an argument on his hands immediately.

"The light that was seen by men who believe it is an 'air ship' is described as having an undulating motion. It moved off toward the northeast vanishing by degrees. Red, white and green colored lights were displayed.

"Astronomers laugh at the idea and Professor George Hough of the Dearborn Obser-

vatory in Evanston has an outline of the course of the star Alpha Orionis. He said.

"This is the air ship. It has been roaming through its regular course in the firmament these 10,000,000 years and why it should have been settled upon these last three weeks and pointed out as the headlight of a mysterious aerial vessel is a thing hard to explain.

Alpha Orionis appears on the meridian at five o'clock and becomes visible at eight o'clock. At that time it resembles a strong white electric light. It first becomes noticeable in the central southwest portion of the sky. At an unusual rapid rate for a star it takes its course toward the northwest, finally disappearing in that corner. As the star begins to sink, the atmospheric conditions cause it to appear to be of a reddish hue on the under side and green on the upper portion when seen through a glass. The center of the body is white."

End of the mystery? Well, not quite. According to Don Tuttle, director of the Elgin Planetarium, Alpha Orionis

would not be a suitable explanation for those objects spotted in the eastern sky. He suggested that the Yerkes Observatory in Wisconsin could help find the answer to the riddle, but John Lester at the observatory reported that it would be hard to mistake a planet for an air ship on this particular date.

"There was nothing extraordinary on this date," Lester said after reviewing planet positions for April 10, 1897. He added that Venus, often mistaken for an unusual celestial object, was pretty well out of site. He did mention reports of an extremely bright meteor shower in the earlier part of the year.

Tuttle also said it could have been a special case of a large meteor coming very close to the earth "but there's no way of checking."

John W. Gunderson of 525 South Commonwealth Ave., Elgin, 17 years old at the time, cannot recall the specific commotion about the mysterious object. He was living on a farm just five miles south of Elgin in 1897.

But Gunderson, extremely alert for a man of 92, does re-

member a heavy amount of meteor activity during the late 1890's and says the objects could very well have been these meteors.

Another long time Elgin resident, Elmer Gylleck, was born in 1898 but speculates about the likely cause of all the strange sightings.

Gylleck says many youths used to launch paper balloons filled with hot air by a small torch.

"The hot air would fill the balloon and lift it high in the sky," Gylleck explained. "They were especially popular around the Fourth of July, but they were very dangerous to play with and the farmers didn't like them."

He said from a distance people could not identify these floating balloons and they were easily mistaken for strange floating objects.

Stars, air ships, hot air balloons or meteors? Nobody will ever know what Elgin residents saw during those April nights of 1897. But it sure gave the people plenty to talk about those days.

Wilkesboro, N.C. Chronicle, October 13, 1897.

STOLE A STONE WALL

Two of the most unique cases of thieving on record are being investigated in Haverhill, Mass. One is the stealing of 15,000 live fish and the other is the theft of a big stone wall surrounding the cemetery of the Hebrew Burial Assoc. This is the first instance ever chronicled of the larceny of a stone wall from a graveyard. Last fall Charles Goodrich constructed an artificial lake on his estate, and stocked it with "shiners" which he intended to sell this winter. Yesterday he had a sale and went in search of the fish but found that they had all gone. The lake was still there, and as there is no outlet there was only one explanation of the mystery.

The Hebrew Burial Association purchased twenty acres of land near the Whittier homestead two years ago. It inclosed the lot with a stone wall. The wall has taken wings just as mysteriously as did the fish in the artificial lake. The members of the board, however, deny that they touched the stones at all, and say that they got their stone from a lot of land which they purchased. The stolen wall was about a half mile long. It is estimated there were nearly 1000 cords of stone in the wall.-- New York Press.

THE **ETYMOLOGY** OF UFOLOGY

We once served as science editor at Funk & Wagnalls, writing and editing many of the scientific pieces which appeared in their encyclopedia. We were also Geography Editor of the F&W New College Dictionary. These publications are still on sale in some parts of the country although F&W has undergone a series of mergers and no longer exists as a separate entity.

As a professional lexicographer it was only natural for us to pay particular attention to UFO terminology when we began our serious research in 1966. The paucity of proper terms was an indication of the scholastic poverty of the UFO field. Even the U.S. Air Force had failed to contribute to the language, aside from the inappropriate term "Unidentified Flying Objects" and the phlegmatic "meandering nocturnal lights".

In our earliest articles we joined Ivan Sanderson in complaining about "Unidentified Flying Objects". In many cases we can question if these things are objects at all. They usually float rather than fly, and, in innumerable instances, they assume a definite identity to the percipient. Fort labeled them OOFs (objects observed floating). In Anomaly #1 we suggested "aerial anomalies" as a more appropriate substitute.

Most of the popular ufological terms, such as "mother ship" (NICAP called them "parent craft"), are based upon contactee lore and unfounded beliefs about their actual nature. Such terms sound absurd to a newcomer and are even more absurd when quoted in newspaper and magazine articles. In fact, the very absurdity of the UFO terminology probably escalated the nonsense and ridicule associated with the subject. If you use crackpot terms you understandably run the risk of being called a crackpot.

Despite all the alleged UFO research of the past two decades we found that no-one had introduced the accepted medical and scientific terms for the various symptoms and manifestations of the phenomenon. For example, many witnesses to occult, religious and UFO manifestations have described a reduction or impairment of their will power. In psychiatry this is known as patholesia. Parergasia might be an appropriate term for the reactions and behavior of many contactees. (Communicant would be a better word than contactee.) In parapsychology, a study that now has a fairly solid academic and scientific footing, the word percipient is widely used. When we introduced percipient to ufology in 1969 we were amazed when we were accused of having invented the term. Percipient can be found in any good dictionary. Contactee can not.

There are other words which are quite appropriate from a scholarly viewpoint. The Greek term skiamachia or sciamachy can be applied to ufology. In philosophy there are many ideas and terms which could be useful to ufology. As we tried to point out in Our Haunted Planet, the will to believe is much greater than the will to understand. It is far easier to accept a half-baked theory than to perform the necessary studies, tests and experiments to produce a qualified understanding. Philosophy has always been concerned with this will to believe. One school of philosophy, phenomenology, founded by Edmund Husserl in the last century, is particularly relevant to the study of ufology. Without realizing it, many ufologists have been indulging in what Husserl called "phenomenological reduction".

None of the so-called "theories" outlined in our three books were new or original with us. The term "Ultraterrestrial" has been around a long time and is included in most good dictionaries. We tried to outline all the major- and many of the minor- beliefs of mankind and illustrate the kinds of manifestations which inspired those beliefs. When viewed in this larger context the popular notions of ufology are not unique, nor are the manifestations which are used to support them. At best, ufology is just another "devil theory" cult. Advocates of devil theories tend to be fanatical and are often paranoid-schizophrenics. The religious, medical and philosophy sections of your local library contain many books describing and defining these things in detail. Ufologists who dig into such literature can suffer the shock of recognition and abandon ufology in dismay and disappointed disgust. In our own books and articles we tried to soften this shock somewhat.

Overall, the UFO neologisms are rooted in the psychoses of the ufologists themselves and, to a lesser degree, in the glossology of the mischievous elementals/UT's/schizoid hallucinations, with an over-lapping of quasi-religious terms adopted from other frames of reference. We prepared an extensive glossary of terms for the FSR special Beyond Condon but it was not published. An expanded version was included with the mss. of OTH but, again, it was deleted. However, we have published many definitions in ANOMALY and in our articles and, happily, many of the "new" terms we have introduced are coming into wide useage.

Recently a mineralogist in England complained because we have not defined the term Unidentified Flying Object itself. The phrase is, of course, self-definable but realistically UFOs can never be defined until we know exactly what they actually are. Clearly, a wide assortment of natural and unnatural phenomena have long been lumped into a single classification. Many (perhaps most) aerial

anomalies are mistakes and misinterpretations of perfectly ordinary objects. Others are subjective impressions of observers with psychic ability. Unquestionably solid objects with machine-like characteristics are exceedingly rare and in our close examinations of the witnesses of such objects we found they experienced the symptoms of hypnotic or mediumistic trance. So are we really being asked to define hallucinations?

Legitimate fields of research produce their own vocabulary and introduce new words into the language. The space program, for example, has given us a whole new dictionary of terms. Even science-fiction has enriched the language. If a research field can be judged by its terminology, what has ufology contributed?

The best way to attain the respectability so long desired by the ufologists is to introduce and use valid medical and scientific terms, and do away with the nonsensical terminology of the 1950's and 1960's. To achieve this we must first recognize the shocking fact that UFO manifestations and characteristics are not unique, and certainly are not new to scholars in other frames of reference. It would help if ufologists would stop practicing what professional writers call "suspension of belief" (this enables you to accept an unbelievable James Bond movie as believable--at least for two hours or so) and start practicing suspension of judgement.

Flickering Light Reveals Susceptibility To Epileptic Seizures

By Judith Randal
Copyright 1971 Washington Star

WASHINGTON — Television screens and other modern devices have made it apparent that as many as one in four persons may inherit a trait that makes them susceptible to epileptic seizures triggered by flickering light.

Although many of these persons never experience any difficulty, the finding may explain why more and more children are coming to the attention of physicians because of seizures of the petit mal — a lesser form of epilepsy characterized by mild convulsive seizure with transient clouding of consciousness.

More Girls

According to a report in Medical World News, a magazine for doctors, studies at several medical centers have shown that the disorders strike more girls than boys and rarely occur in those under 6 years old. The years between 11 and 15 are the most susceptible age.

The hereditary aspects of environmental epilepsy — as the disorder is called — has been investigated by doctors C. Wesley Watson and Elliott M. Marcus of Tufts University

in Boston. Testing the families of their parents for abnormal sensitivity to light they found the trait in 50 per cent of the fathers and 45 per cent of the brothers and sisters.

Apparently most of those with environmental epilepsy are children, but adults may have the disease, too. According to the Medical World News report, for example, a test of a group of helicopter pilots showed 5 per cent to be susceptible to flickering light.

Some Cases

Some persons, says the article, are subject to seizures even in the absence of this stimulus. One woman had an attack after glancing at a display of striped fabrics and another while walking past a picket fence. A third patient, a Jewish child, had to abandon Hebrew lessons because reading from right to left set him off.

Like other forms of epilepsy, the environmental form usually can be treated with phenobarbital and/or anti-convulsive drugs, Medical World News reports. In

Loch Ness Monster Seen Near Chicago

A "black, shiny monster" has been sighted regularly in a lake in suburban Chicago.

"It's scary. It moves up and down. It's got a head. And it seems to disappear at will," said Robert Seeger, 52, a salesman from Lisle, Ill., who claims he often views the beast.

Seeger, an avid fisherman, said he became suspicious when large steel hooks he left overnight in the lake were bent beyond recognition the next morning. And there was no trace of the bait.

"I know it sounds kind of oddball," he said, "but it's there."

some cases, dark glasses or conditioning training, which teaches the patient how to be less sensitive to light, might be helpful.

Occasionally, however, psychiatry is called for because the patient — usually a child — discovered "some positive pleasurable quality in the paroxysm."

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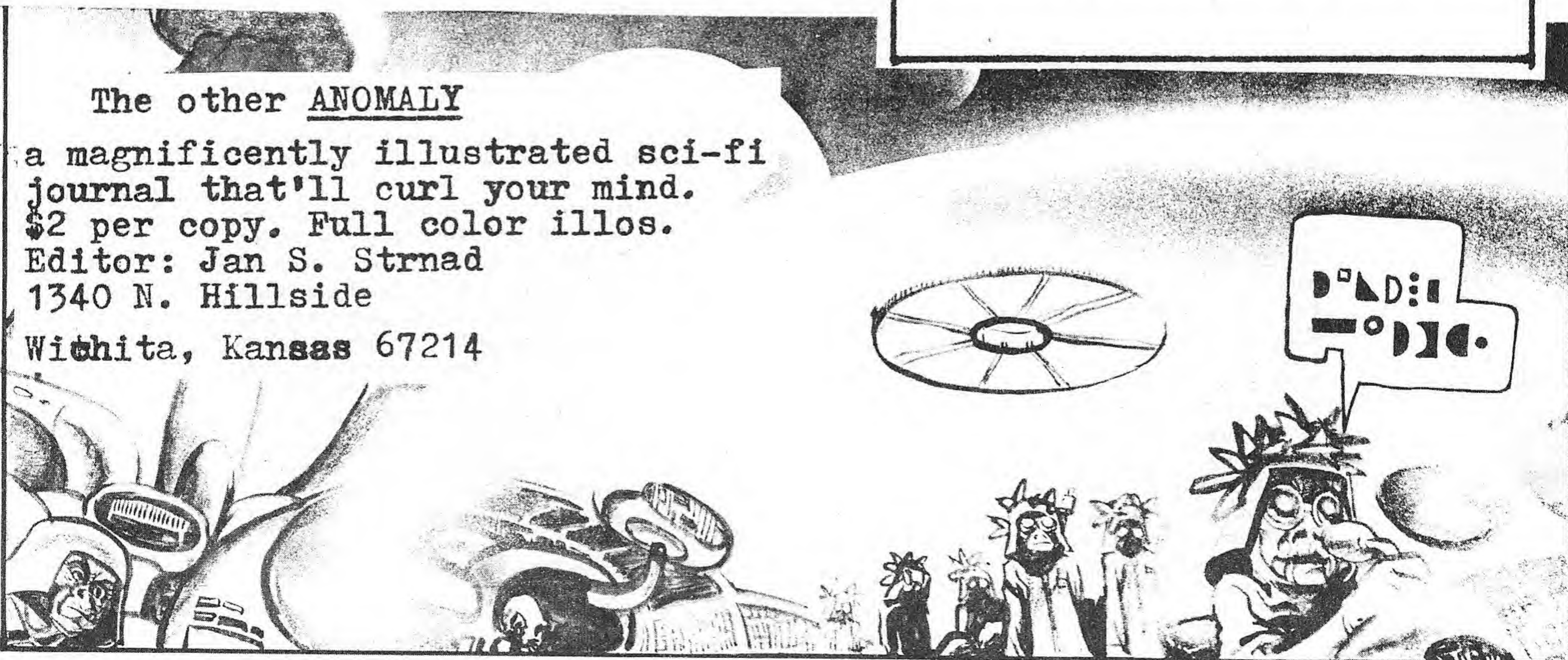
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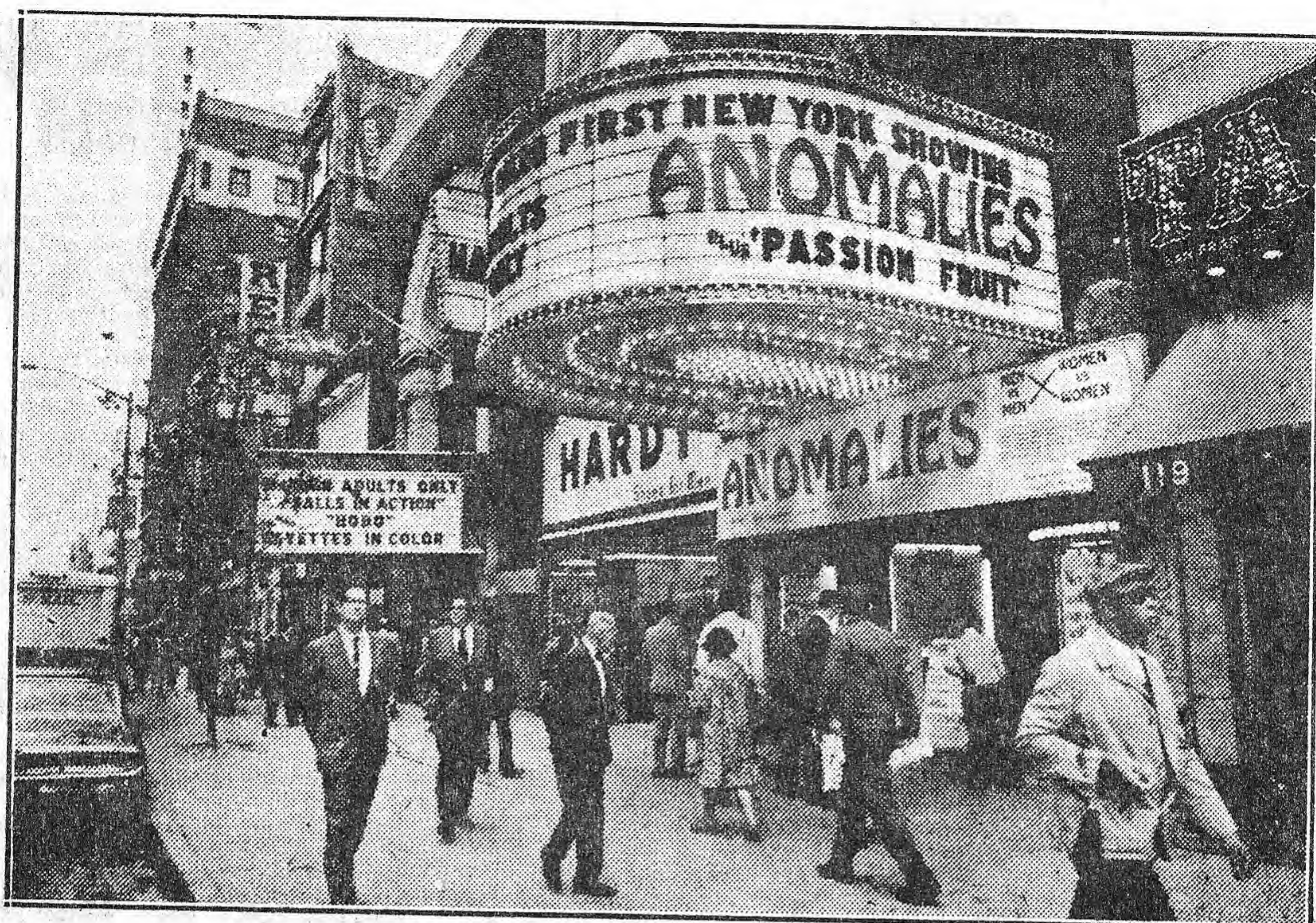
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Sex-film theaters on W. 42d St. advertise their wares for passersby. NEWS photo by George Mattson

John A. Keel. Our Haunted Planet. Greenwich, Conn.: Fawcett Publications, Inc. (Gold Medal Paperback). 75¢.

The content of this book only fringes upon our particular field, which is the tangible unexplained mysteries of natural history, but it is profoundly fortan in its approach to matters that are primarily intangible, at least in the dictionary sense of that word. This is not to say that items like Atlantis and disappearing nuclear submarines are not tangible indeed but that the author tackles, and not just boldly to say the least, the much more difficult and weird intangible aspects of all these things. The reports given in this book are, naturally, secondhand and most of them almost old-hat to fortans; but, strung together and assembled this way, with almost breathless, and often staccato, journalistic cadence (Keel is a journalist), they certainly make one sit up, or back, and think. The details in quite a lot of these cases are either inaccurate or at variance with other published accounts. However, I would not put it past Keel to have dug out the true details.

If you really want to have some fun, bring up John Keel's name at any gathering of scientifically trained folk, pseudoscientists, religionists or pseudo-religionists, or cultists of any kind, and most notably the ufologists and saucerians. Frankly, it is now my belief that he does not just embarrass them by quoting from their own published statements, but terrifies them with his theorising: both of which, I may say, he does in exactly the same manner as the old man himself. John Keel is a lot more polite and far less dogmatic than Charles Fort, but he knows just as well where to stick in the barb and then how to twist it.

His general theory is, of course, utterly horrible to just about everybody but, as one turns the pages of this book, one finds oneself constantly sucking in one's breath and mumbling something like "Oh no! Not that too? But now I come to think of it . . .".

I was once involved in a scholastic debate on matters entirely pragmatic when his name came up, and a geophysicist with a full doctorate, and a Jesuit Priest at that, casually remarked: "Now there's one thinker who's got guts". I was speechless, and not only because I had never expected this scientist to have even heard of John Keel, but because it was Keel who really first put forward the idea of ultra-terrestrials — years before scientists such as Dr. Jacques Vallee. He tackled this in two previous books (Strange Creatures from Time and Space, Fawcett; and UFOs: Operation Trojan Horse, Putnam) and it boils down to an analysis of the history of deliberate interference in human affairs since ever by other intelligencies of various status and origin, invisible or tangible, and both what we call "good" and "evil". This is not a likely commendation to a professional geophysicist or a Roman Catholic priest!

The book is beautifully done by the author, but the publisher and/or he are to be most roundly condemned for not going to the trouble (despite the admitted expense) of a full bibliography or table of numbered references; and, even worse, for not providing an index. If they are in business to sell books, the publishers at least ought to know that these are essentials for a book of this nature, as it could one day become not only a classic but a reference work of very great and lasting value. Back-tracking through 222 pages of packed small print to find even one's own name depresses both me and my ego. But get the book — all of you.

Ivan T. Sanderson.